OPINION / A10

Fr. Jerry Orbos: In the Rotary's 4-Way Test, note that the primary question is about truthfulness, and the last is about being beneficial. If we were to follow Jesus as our leader, we must, as He did, put truth above expediency

SPORTS / A23

Bacolod girls enter Junior League World Series finals in Washington

NEWS / A16

New petition from nursing professionals seeks to invalidate oaths taken by 2,000 successful examinees of tainted nursing licensure examinations before Court of Appeals TRO

Man with 2 organs just wants normal sex life

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS
Sunday, August 20, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 253 P18

RP sends SOS on oil spill

US, Japan, Indon help sought on 'unimaginable' disaster

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila and Carla P. Gomez, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Jhanness Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

FEARING A BIGGER ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE, Malacañang has sent out an SOS to the United States, Japan and Indonesia to help clean up the country's worst oil spill.

Greenpeace environmental campaigners said the spill from a sunken tanker off Guimaras Island was a disaster "completely unimaginable" for a country as ill-equipped as the Philippines to handle, and that the irony was that the national government failed to see the urgency of the problem.

Police underscored the need for quick action, saying oil was spurting out of the sunken tanker at the rate of 180 to 200 liters an hour.

"The government has already sounded the alarm to foreign governments, including Indonesia, the US and Japan, to help refloat the sunken tanker," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"This is because a further environmental catastrophe looms as a big volume of oil, estimated at 450,000 gallons (1.7 million liters), is still trapped under water."

Bunye said the National Disaster Coordinating Council was working round the clock to address "this ecological and economic time bomb."

"The team is working at all levels to contain the spill, pinpoint accountabilities, repair the damage, oversee assistance to the affected communities, set up prevention measures and look into long-term policy reforms."

Officials of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) said initial investigation indicated the MT Solar 1 had suffered damage while sailing through rough seas and that the vessel should not have continued with the voyage.

The tanker sank last Friday while loaded with 13,000 barrels, or 2 million liters, of bunker fuel.

The spill is considered the biggest in the country's history and occurred just eight months after an oil tanker ran aground off the coasts of Semirara Island in Antique province, spilling more than 300,000 liters of bunker fuel.

SPILL SERIES A6

ENDANGERED. These starfish are among the creatures in the Guimaras marine sanctuary endangered by the oil spill.

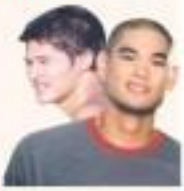
BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH is an unappealing proposition for the fisherman who owns this oil-soaked foot. Tons of oil that spilled out of a tanker on Guimaras Strait have reached this beach in Barangay Tando on Guimaras Island.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Remembrances and the streets of Manila: Old familiar landmarks revisited
METRO / A17

'Cedula' rush to earn P20M in taxes from Nueva Ecija and Bulacan residents alone
ACROSS / A13

Sea World, where dolphins touch the heart, heads the list of premier tourist attractions in Orlando, Florida
LIFESTYLE TRAVEL / D2



Jay-R says tiff with Borgy Manotoc not a fight, just 'a guy thing'
ENTERTAINMENT / F1

At 92, he plays golf 3 days a week—without using a golf cart—at RP's oldest course
SUNDAY MAGAZINE / 3

IOM: More than just getting OFWs out of harm's way

By Volt Contreras

BEYOND THE SOB STORIES AT THE AIRport as the bureaucratic squabbles that have marked the Filipino evacuation from Lebanon is a steady, experienced hand that, over the last half-century, has helped get migrants out of "somebody else's war."

As of yesterday, 3,540 overseas Filipino workers had been found out of Beirut to Damascus, Syria, and then flown to Manila courtesy of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), of which the Philippines is a member.

That's easily more than half of the approximately 5,600 OFWs to be repatriated, the rest of whom had their transport expenses shouldered by the Philippine government.

Filipinos have also made up about a quarter of the total number of foreign nationals who have left Lebanon with IOM assistance since the conflict began a month ago. The group has spent $13 million helping 15 countries get their citizens out.

But IOM's work in the Philippines in the last 25 years has certainly been more than just getting OFWs out of harm's way.

From giving orientations to job-seekers abroad, to training immigration agents, to helping policymakers find the best ways to use the dollar remittances for nation-building, IOM has been an engaged witness to the Philippines' increasing dependence on OFWs.

For now, however, the country has been counting on it to save Filipino lives on the other side of the globe.

Although IOM's Manila-based officers monitor the movement of evacuees

IOM A8

Eggie Apostol: Lifetime lamplighter

By Juan Rufino Vigilar
Contributor

EVEN BEFORE THE PHILIPPINES WOULD HAVE its first woman president, another woman was helping pave the way for it to happen through the weekly magazine she founded and edited.

At a time when it was safer for the media to bow to the murder of a dictator's political nemesis as the moment warming against dissent, Eugenia Duran Apostol chose to summarize a people's relentless pain.

It was her magazine Mr. & Ms., not any of the daily broadsheets owned by Ferdinand Marcos' authoritarian regime, that gave the lonely long funeral procession of Benigno Aquino Jr. in 1983 the national significance it deserved.

Thousands of Filipinos from all walks of life, led by the widow who would be president, attended what was the biggest demonstration against Marcos. The banner of shared grief, Mr. & Ms., signaled that the time was ripe to openly and jointly cry out in protest.

The public thirst for information was so great that all copies of the magazine's special issue on the funeral sold out. It promptly spun off into a separate weekly that later would reach a circulation of half a million copies, unsurpassed by any publica-

EGGIE A5

EGGIE APOSTOL: Ramon Magsaysay awardee and grand dame of Philippine journalism

Finally, Apo's Jim Paredes gives up on RP

By Gerry Lirio

MELBOURNE—THE SINGER-COMPOSer who helped topple the Marcos dictatorship but years later gave up all hope for a better Philippines is closing just fine in his new-found home in Sydney, Australia.

Five months into his new life as an immigrant, Jim Paredes is slowly becoming the face of a new set of overseas Filipinos, one of the many disillusioned millions who left the country in search of kindlier, greener pastures.

"It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be," Paredes told the Inquirer in an interview. "I'm happy I started. No regrets."

He inspired young men and women to stay in the country and fight the Marcos regime when it was not fashionable to do so. Today, he urges Filipinos to fashion their dreams, even if it means leaving the country for a better life.

FINALLY A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2006
Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

What about NPA's victims, asks Esperon

AFP chief says communist rebels killed 1,127 people since 2000

DAVAO CITY—THE COMMUNIST NEW PEOple's Army has killed more than a thousand people, including innocent civilians, in the past five years, according to Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

"Since 2000, there have been some 1,127 killings by the NPA nationwide," Esperon told reporters at the Task Force Davao headquarters here on Friday.

He said the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has resorted to killing innocent civilians, small farmers, fishermen and people that the guerrillas tag for financial support.

The AFP chief did not specify how many of the 1,127 were military members, and civilians.

Commenting on a recent summary international report that the government's approach to the insurgency problem has resulted in the assassination of some activist leaders, Esperon said: "We respect the Amnesty International as an organization but it does not necessarily mean we go [along] with their report."

The AI said the threat of political killings had intensified with President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation of a state of emergency in February, the arrest and threatened arrest of militant party-list lawmakers, and the administration's all-out war against communist insurgents.

The group raised concerns about "credible reports" that state security forces may have been involved in the killings, or at least may have tolerated or may have had knowledge of them.

It documented an increase in the incidence of extrajudicial killings this year, recording 31 cases in the first semester. It said there were 66 such killings during the whole of 2005.

"It seems even before they came here they already knew where to talk, and came out with a report blaming us," said Esperon.

"We are just saying that it seems the report is not entirely true. It tends to lean [too] much to the Left," he said.

He said the London-based international human rights group tends to interview people who are likely to energize the government.

He said the AI should just refrain from interviewing those people it knows were likely to blame the government.

In Cotabato City, the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) called on the government to brand the AI's call to improve its human rights record.

Khaled Musa, the deputy chair of the MILF's information committee, said the AI report was encouraging in the country's image.

He said it would somehow affect the ongoing peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Talking peace with a government that has a "bad" human rights record was like telling the people that "we are dealing with an unreliable partner in the peace process."

"Granting that it is true that the government is not behind these killings, how is the administration to battle to stop these political killings? Those who cannot lend effectively have no [right] to step in their perch," Musa said. Breena Aty Gacosta and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

AFP CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Hermogenes Esperon (center) briefs military officials at Task Force Davao headquarters on the movements of more troops to the front lines in keeping with the government offensive to quash the communist insurgency in two years. (Inquirer file/GIL OCAMPO/Inquirer Mindanao)

GMA proposal a coverup—Joma

UTRECHT—Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison said Thursday that President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal to form a special commission to look into the political killings in the country is nothing but a coverup for the military to continue its murderous rampage, according to Jose Ma. Sison, self-exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"A [the commission] can only depend on the sham investigation of the police agents of Arroyo and can only end up with trying to uphold the malicious claims of the regime against the victims, the legal opposition and the revolutionary movement," Sison said in a statement e-mailed yesterday in the Inquirer.

He claimed that the proposed special commission only intended to pull the rug out from under the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

He urged CHR officials to hold the government accountable for the killings because it had a duty to protect its citizens.

Sison noted that it had long been an "open secret" that no less than the President was in charge of the US-instigated scheme to use state terrorism to destroy the revolutionary movement in the Philippines "under the US policy of war on terror."

On Thursday, Mr. Arroyo announced the formation of a new commission that would investigate the spate of leftist and media killings.

Malacañang declared that the planned commission would have the credibility and the clout to move ongoing probes forward to stop the killings and render justice to the victims.

"The solution to the extrajudicial killings and abductions can be expected from the [same] herself, the practitioner of state terrorism and mastermind of the unprecedented slaughter of legal activists," said Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front based in Utrech, The Netherlands.

He hinted that with the government's failure to stop the killings, other options outside the judicial system were now being considered.

He said no real and honest investigation could be expected from the police, military and the Department of Justice "because their participation is to cover up another the death squads continue their dirty work, or put the blame on the victims and the revolutionary mass and to discredit the human rights organizations and foreign governments that have opposed the truth."

Sison also pointed to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales as the alleged brains behind the series of political killings and abductions.

According to leftist human rights watchdog Karapatan, over 700 cases of activists, farmers, students, community organizers and journalists have been killed since 2001, when Mrs. Arroyo took power.

The Inquirer tally is more than 200, and the police, more than 100. Bobby P. Wallace Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Book on killings may be moot

By Norman Bordadora

THE BOOK "STOP THE killings in the Philippines," was launched yesterday but it may have already been rendered outdated by events.

Published by the Ishik Ihoc Foundation Inc., the book is a compilation of news articles regarding the killings and disappearances in the ranks of militant organizations since 2001.

First printed in June, the book lists 673 killings. Barely two months later yesterday, Bayan had already recorded 729 assassinations.

"If we have it on the statistics in the book, that's 56 new cases in just two months. That's almost one killing a day," said Bayan-Bela Gazmen, Bayan's executive director.

Karapatan, the human rights group and main source of the statistics in Ihoc's latest project, told the Inquirer that there were actually 33 new cases in political killings from around the time the book was printed in June to the reporting yesterday.

"The book was based on statistics before Karapatan's national conference in June. After the conference, we received belated reports of killings from the countryside," said Ihoc Foundation Inc. human rights committee officer.

"Some of the cases may have happened in January, for instance, but we just received the reports during the conference," she added.

The book said that there were 282 victims of political killings, 69 disappearances, 31 tortures and 349 missing persons in the two-and-a-half-year period from January 2004 to June 7, 2006.

Quoting Karapatan figures, the book disclosed that some 59 persons were killed in 2004, followed by a higher 183 victims in 2005. In 2006, The year 2006 also included more than 200 cases where victims survived assassination attempts.

The two Karapatan fact-finding documented 91 cases of violations of international humanitarian law.

"Through these killings, the Arroyo administration is trying to isolate the most dynamic opposition to her regime, that is, the leftist party-list groups," Gazmen told the Inquirer.

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Joker wants P2B more for victims of Marcos

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ADMINISTRATION SEN. JOKER ARROYO wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to provide an additional P2 billion for the compensation of human rights victims during the Marcos regime.

Arroyo, who chairs the Senate committee on human rights, sought the President's endorsement on the additional sum after the House of Representatives passed its version of the human rights compensation bill that provides only for P8 billion.

The Senate version proposes P10 billion to pay the claims of the rights abuse victims.

The bill in one of five measures set for priority deliberations by the Senate but has yet to be scheduled for approval by the plenary.

"We will pass that before the break," Arroyo said. Congress goes on recess on the second week of October.

Arroyo said he assured Malacañang's assistance on the P10 billion before the bill is submitted to the plenary for voting.

He said the President has asked for nearly P5 billion to fund the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program under the P84.4 billion supplemental budget for 2006.

No amount was allotted for the human rights victims but Mr. Arroyo earlier said P6 billion to P8 billion are available in funds that Marcos' twelve deputies that have been remitted to the National Treasury.

At a recent budget hearing at the Senate, Arroyo asked Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. whether Malacañang would honor the commitment of a previous budget secretary to pay the P10 billion.

Arroyo said Andaya's predecessor, Romulo Neri, who is now socio-economic planning chief, had promised a Senate hearing that the P10 billion would be made available for the claimants.

The amount was once changed to P6 billion.

"We can have a revolving door secretary here or does it mean we cannot honor the words of our secretary," Arroyo asked.

Controversial exec is Deputy Ombudsman

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday appointed Orlando C. Casimiro as the overall deputy ombudsman amid questions on his [illegible] in filing cases against military personnel implicated in the killings of activists and media.

Corruption charges had also been filed against Casimiro by an executive of the same antigraft body.

Casimiro, who has been Ombudsman for the Military and Other Law Enforcement Agencies since January 2000, [illegible] appointed by the Aquino Human Rights Commission of failure to resolve cases of murder, extrajudicial killings and torture that had prosecuted police and military officers from being charged.

"The role of the Ombudsmen is similar that case promptly is essential. Unless the Ombudsman recommends or endorses the filing of complaints against the perpetrators in the court, they will not be formally charged," said the 1987 Constitution.

Under his watch as the Ombudsman for the Military and Arroyo administration component, the Marcos era for having the most number of unsolved political killings.

Casimiro also faced charges of corruption, obstruction of justice, favoritism and falsification from Gilberto Ibarra, a graft investigation officer/prosecutor officer who had filed the complaint with Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez.

Ibarra claimed that Casimiro had instructed him to approve the dismissal of a case based on a falsified affidavit of the complainant. Gil Cabacungan Jr.

Bolante case up before Chicago court Monday

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONFIDENTIAL

former Agriculture Undersecretary Jose "Joc-joc" Bolante will finally face a United States court tomorrow to answer charges he entered the US without a valid visa, according to an opposition lawyer.

Lawyer Harry Roque Jr. said Bolante was expected to formally ask Chicago Judge George W. Kazakoulia to grant him asylum during the hearing.

"This is like an acquittal. Bolante will be asked to admit to the charge against him—that he entered the US without a valid visa...and he is expected to formally allege his defensive petition that he is entitled to asylum," Roque said.

Bolante is to be forced to have violated charge of the deportation allien of P728 million in fertilizer funds, allegedly to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections.

Canceled visa

He was arrested at the Los Angeles International airport on July 7 for carrying a canceled B1/B2 visa. The reason for the visa cancellation remains a mystery.

Bolante was detained at the San Pedro Detention Center in Terminal 1 in Inglewood, 10 km from Los Angeles, before Judge ED Shgueira on Aug. 2 granted his request to have the case transferred to Chicago.

'Delaying tactic'

The transfer was seen as a "delaying tactic" since most of the witnesses—the immigration authorities who arrested Bolante—are based in Los Angeles and would have to make trips to Chicago to testify.

Roque also noted that Bolante's family and the law firm representing him—Arnday, Stein and Seiden, LLC, the largest immigration law firm in Chicago and the fourth largest in the US—are based in Chicago.

Bolante is believed to have political asylum, claiming he was facing imprisonment for assassination by the communist New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, for his alleged involvement in the fertilizer fund scam.

One-day trial

After tomorrow's hearing, Judge Kazanoulis would then set the date for the "one-day trial proper" during which Bolante would submit all the evidence to support his plea for asylum.

"After that, the judge will come out with his decision. I think he will hear this up and I'm very confident that it's going to be an absolute denial," Roque said.

Hard time

The lawyer said he and other University of the Philippines law experts opposing Bolante's asylum plea have been having a hard time getting the forum expert on the alleged P728-million fertilizer fund scam authenticated.

Certification

According to Roque, the US Embassy has required that the reports be submitted with a certification of authenticity from the Department of Foreign Affairs, but the DFA has refused to do this without character from Malacañang.

Malacañang is nowhere indicted for the "spurious signatures" of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. who drafted the letters immigration uses the alleged scam.

FOR A GREENER NEGROS

The Nordson Green Earth Foundation recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the University of the Philippines-Los Baños Foundation for technical assistance and the preparation of a master plan for the former's 45-ha ornamentals forest park and training center in Victorias City, Negros Occidental. The park will showcase sustainable agroforestry models in line with the Nordson's thrust to support environment protection initiatives and the greening of Negros Island. Seated are (from left) lawyer Randy P. Diploma, Nordson chair and CEO, and Dr. Luis Ray I. Velasco Ph.D., chancellor, UPLB. Standing are (from left) Jose K. Montalvo and M.V. Mayuralga of Nordson; Dean Ramon A. Razal, UP College of Forestry; Dr. Willie Cervancia, Institute of Agroforestry; Br. Cecilio R. Arboleda, UPLB Foundation; Dr. Rafael Lasco, ICRAF-World Agro Forestry Centers, and Dr. Rolsen Vivo, UP College of Forestry.

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Cebu City	Cebu National HS	Oct. 7, 2006
Iligan City	Mindanao State University	Oct. 14, 2006
Cabanatuan City	Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology	Nov. 25, 2006
Tarlac City	Tarlac College of Agriculture	Dec. 2, 2006

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Existing Poro Point contract valid, says Abaya

By Dixie L. Lucas

THE HEAD OF THE BASES CONversion Development Authority has confirmed that the contract between the government and the private operators of the Poro Point seaport is not legally and binding. La Union mayor Leonardo Oriz is double-dealing government entities in favor of a foreign investor.

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Abaya said a BCDA subsidiary, the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC), wanted the contract with the DOE nullified, a move he opposed.

According to Abaya, DOE president Brig. Gen. Eduardo Ermita — a relative of Bacoor Rep. Lito "Chavit" Ermita — had asked the Palace office—had ordered the BCDA to nullify the contract with PPMC under the law.

He said the DOE had sent to him a DOE board resolution stating that the PPP contract was void because it violated the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, which requires that the government must be the majority owner of a project.

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ABAYA

"Built and void ab initio," which the subsidiary insisted the BCDA do away with.

The PPMC's reasons were that the Poro Point operator had allegedly failed to post a performance bond, there had been no bidding process for the contract, and the contract was "grossly disadvantageous to the government."

The BCDA requested for opinion, citing an opinion from the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), which upheld the contract.

"So that was the position also taken by the BCDA and we went back to Ermita to say that (since the OGCC reviewed it, the contract remained valid," Abaya said.

But the BCDA chief also stressed that the PPPC was in violation of certain contractual terms, citing the findings of an investigation by the Sen. Panfilo Lacson-led Senate committee on public governance showing that the company did not have an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for its port operations.

The ECC is necessary to legally run even the Poro Point port operations, citing the PPC's lack of an ECC.

The takeover has been exercised by administration Sen. Alfredo Robinson Sumbaya, who said the issue of the ECC was being used by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for extortion activities.

Abaya disputed a statement by the PPC claiming that its Poro Point operations were covered by an existing ECC, saying the document, which was issued in 1996, claimed to have was issued to another firm, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Development Corp., which was formed in partnership with businessman Robert John Sobrepeña.

"The area listed (in) the ECC is 157.36 hectares and none of it includes (a) seaport," the BCDA chief said.

He said the ECC covered a golf course, commercial, residential and horizontal developments, a casino hotel, a logistic and operations center, a 500-slot gaming amusement casino, a conveyor and the relocation of a Point of Arrival/Communication station.

"There was no seaport," he stressed.

Nene doubts latest exposé on cheating in '04 election

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

INTO THE LEADER of the opposition in the Senate's not inclined to believe the exposé by two men who claimed they took part in rigging in behalf of President Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. warned fellow opposition senators in his way of the conduct of self-confessed election operators Antonio Rasadas and Clemente Jose Cotoco.

Using named sources in a drama a two-edged sword, if Rasadas and Cotoco were part of the conspiration of the 2004 presidential election under the supervision of Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, it is difficult to believe they would now act on their sources could be the mark," Pimentel said.

The senator, who would normally welcome and even rally behind whoever came out to testify against Mr. Arroyo, said the two men could be serving to get more "financial mileage" from the scandal-ridden administration.

Recklessly taking Rasadas and Cotoco's story on a partial match, Pimentel said, could be dangerous to the cause of the opposition which is trying to rouse the Presidency over her supposedly questionable mandate.

"Sec. Sec., they say want to be paid more than what they had probably been paid for their services for their participation," Pimentel said in a statement.

He said these same some election officers, political operators and other participants in the 2004 poll fraud who had "volunteered to repent and testify" before the Senate only to back out after they were lured by the administration. He did not name them, however.

As for the new witnesses, Pimentel said there were stunning signs for the opposition.

He said the fact that the scheduled press conference of the two men last Thursday was canceled should have warned them behind them to be extra careful.

The two were supposed to be presented at a press conference with Senate bishops ahead of the administration. Instead, copies of their affidavits were sent to media representatives distributed to the media.

Pimentel also pointed out the men's handlers were quoted as saying that the two, who claimed they showed votes from Senator Jinggoy Estrada in 2004, were not paid for their services.

But for former Sen. Loren Legarda, the truth about cheating in the 2004 presidential poll and the questionable circumstances surrounding Rasadas and Cotoco do not matter. Rasadas and Cotoco do not have their affidavits to the media.

"The missing pieces of evidence and a veritable horde of witnesses have come out to prove how massive the 2004 electoral fraud was," said Legarda who included the ex-poll protest with Vice President Noli de Castro after the latter lost by a slim margin.

"This also holds true for the hanghal snatching of election returns with fraudulent clear sight results Congress in a recent up-to-date resolution," she said.

Legarda said the testimonies of Rasadas and Cotoco confirmed previous physical and testimonial evidence on the switching of election returns and the "dagdag-bawas" scheme that "deprive Filipinos of their true elected leaders."

In her election protest against De Castro before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, Legarda presented evidence that fifty from the municipalities of Tarlac had not been included with fakes while in the custody of the House of Representatives.

Legarda faulted the assertions by comparing the "fake" tally from Congress with certified true copies of tally from the Commission on Elections and the Senate's "Official" Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel). Both Senators Pimentel

'Upgrade by Fitch shows RP on track'

By Philip C. Tubeza

ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKERS yesterday said the move by the Fitch Ratings credit-rating agency to upgrade by one notch to "country rating" by the Philippines showed the country was moving forward despite opposition attempts to scare President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Cebu Representative Eduardo Zialcita and Jose Rhoy Sinaca said the upgrade, which came amid the latest failed impeachment bid against the President, proved the country was going in the right direction owing to the economic and social policies of the administration.

The London-based Fitch Ratings the other day raised the country's rating for the Philippines to "BB+" from "BB". However, it kept the Philippines' sovereign risk rating at "BB", or two notches below the much coveted investment grade.

Sovereign risk refers to the risk that a government would default on debt obligations, while country rating is an assessment of the risk to investors in a country's economy and investment arising from economic political conditions.

Zialcita said the Fitch upgrade was "a prelude to more positive developments like a ratings upgrade from the different rating agencies, and a consequent surge in investments."

The administration legislator said that the Fitch upgrade came after GDP, Singapore's largest bank, predicted the peso trading at P50 to $1 level by the end of the year and possibly reaching the P49 to $1 mark by the first quarter of 2007 due to the "upgrades to be ratified for budget, exports and overseas worker remittances."

Zialcita said it was an affirmation of the international community's confidence in the good governance of the Arroyo administration.

"Other countries questioned GMA's moves to reconstitute. But some events showed the government is proving everything on the right track despite the politics. GMA is slowly but surely getting to hold on the map," he said.

Almario said the Fitch Ratings upgrade should move even more to support the President's economic initiatives.

"We should take advantage of this positive development to attract more investors to our country, into the economic mainstream.

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MCLE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (36 units)
29 AUGUST – 01 SEPTEMBER 2006

DATE	SUBJECT	RESOURCE SPEAKER	LECTURER(S)
28 August Monday	Developments in Election Law and Jurisprudence (Jurisdiction/Procedure) and Selected Topics in Labor Law	Three (3) hours 9:00-12 Noon	Justice Reynaldo B. Daquiag
	Updates on Western Mindanao Conflict	One (1) hour 1:00-2:00 pm	Atty. Carlos G. Dominguez
	Foreign Investments in the Philippines (MCLE Provider) (Lecture)		
	Alternative Skills for Lawyers	Three (3) hours 2:00-5:00 pm	Prof. Annabelle T. Reyes
29 August Tuesday	Legal Research (Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy)	Two (2) hours 9:00-11:00 am	Prof. Merlin M. Magallona
	Civil Procedure and Special Proceedings (Lecture)	Two (2) hours 11:00-1:00 pm	RTC Executive T. Valdez-Inda
	Constitutional Rights (MCLE Provider) (Lecture)	Two (2) hours 1:00-3:00 pm	Dean Pacifico M. Agabin (ret.)
30 August Wednesday	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) hours 9:00-12 Noon	Justice Jose L. Sabio Jr.
	Labor Arbitration (Lecture)	One (1) hour 1:00-2:00 pm	Atty. Emil Jesus P. Guerrero Jr.
	Labor Arbitration (Workshop)	Two (2) hours 2:00-4:00 pm	
31 August Thursday	Legal Writing (Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy)	Two (2) hours 9:00-11:00 am	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
	Foreign Investments & International Law (International Law)	Two (2) hours 11:00-1:00 pm	Prof. Raymundo Felix L. Tioqui Jr.
	Civil and Special Procedure Involving Government Officials (Jurisdiction/Procedure) (Lecture)	Three (3) hours 1:00-4:00 pm	Justice Reynaldo B. Daquiag
01 Sept Friday	Mode and the Law (Jurisprudence and Procedure) and Statutory Rape in Legal Ethics (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) hours 9:00-12 Noon	Prof. Howard P.V. Navo-Morales
		Three (3) hours 1:00-4:00 pm	Dean Pacifico S. Agabin (ret.)

Venue: 3/F Bonifacio Hall, U.P. Law Center, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
Registration Fee: P1,000 per session or P3,000 for the entire program
Limited to 60 slots. MCLE Certificate of Attendance Minimum (MCLE Compliance Report and Notice) Materials for details, please call Telefax: 929-73-57 or 920-0114 local 208 and 209
NOTE: Schedule/lectures are subject to change without prior notice.

Palace clinic to stay

ONE DAY AFTER SEN. LUISA "JOY" Ejercito or Estrada filed a bill to convert the Malacañang clinic into a hospital, the Palace announced that it will not close down the clinic.

Deputy Executive Secretary for Public Affairs and Administration Jacinto Ibay said that the clinic will remain open to serve the Palace employees.

Ibay said that the clinic is equipped with medical personnel and medicines.

Ejercito-Estrada filed Senate Bill No. 2129 on Thursday, August 17, which seeks to convert the clinic into a hospital.

Ejercito-Estrada said that the clinic is underutilized and that the Palace employees can avail of medical services in other hospitals.

Fed-up GMA demands apology from Cayetano

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and the First Family have had enough of baseless accusations from critics, the latest from Taguig-Pateros Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano who claimed the family had millions of dollars stashed in a secret bank account in Germany.

In a statement, President Arroyo demanded a "full and unconditional" retraction from the person who made that statement and a public apology to the First Family.

"If that is not forthcoming, the proper charges shall be filed and full action and retribution shall be sought for the damages done," said the President.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the demand for a full retraction and apology and threat of a legal case showed that "the President and the First Family will not take that without (a) fight sitting down."

This is the first time the President has threatened to sue one of her critics in her five years in office or she had always preferred to treat blanket denials to charges leveled against her, including the alleged $500 Filtel account of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

In the discussions before the House committee on justice voted on the impeachment complaint against Arroyo, Cayetano claimed the Arroyos had a secret bank account with hundreds of millions in dollars in a Germany. Bill Cabacungan Jr.

Eggie Apostol: Lifetime lamplighter

From page A1

Star even many years later.

It was no one else commercial success that happened to appear at the right time. Its journalistic sense and commitment remained not only a loyal and growing readership but also the public courage to protest against and eventually topple the Marcos dictatorship.

Pushing the limits

Ignored kept pushing the limits of journalism at the time.

When the trial of Aquino's alleged assassins began and its weighty vast subject, she set up The Inquirer—a weekly that scrupulously detailed the scandalous comic twists and turns in the hearings.

After nine months of publication, a readership reflected by the protesting terms of a whopping and losses of almost P1 million, Apostol was about to give up.

But realizing that the opposition had a limited voice versus Marcos—who had declared that "stop" elections by held in three months' time—she felt the need to augment the efforts of the so-called "nonpolitic press" and promptly revived The Inquirer as the daily that it knows today as the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Although clearly pro-opposition, the new daily provided balanced coverage in an embedded media. As they printing 30,000 copies, circulation was 10 times just before the mass elections, beating the largest daily at the time.

Throng of news, even death, hardly commanded the same appeal.

Ban on bullet lessons

The paper whose format likewise had likened to "an animals bed" would herald the 1986 peaceful People Power revolution and, three months later, would head, like his regime's main awakening: "It's all over. Marcos flees."

Apostol's feisty character and belief in press freedom showed it well early on in her journalism career, striking for the Catholic newspaper The Commonwealth. She had dared oppose the then Manila archbishop's ban on bullet lessons in schools run by Catholic nuns, and was fired for writing against it.

Later, she would take the newspaper lifestyle sections and weekly magazines she edited outside, as it were, the confines of the home, and gave them a more civic spirit by introducing consumer issues and topical national concerns.

Counting the shows in a roll of toilet paper or weighing just 20 of was part of introducing the adversary of a consumer group she co-founded even while being a journalist.

The first main main committed in a local women's magazine appeared when she edited Woman's Home Companion (WHC). It was the very first women's magazine that also featured male centerfolds, who last their jobs as the Manila Chronicle, after martial law shut down the major dailies in 1972.

But as funding conversions forced exchange in the magazine's ownership and its consequent editorial thrust, she quit, the staff close at her heels, in all to look after her own kids, she set up Mr. & Ms. shall with the staff that remained loyal to her.

The magazine's name itself coined Apostol's customer urge to widen the scope of the typical magazine of the day. Later, she would create quite the political sensation, an innovation that gave the explosive voice of dissent classic.

Sense of purpose

A mercurial man and a constant optimist, fueled by a strong sense of purpose, sacked her the affection and respect of colleagues, young and old, who would help her through the lows in her career.

She has been called Philippine journalism's grand dame.

amid constant funding constraints and fortunate support from advertisers and even colleagues fearful of a greater backlash in the Marcos days, she goes practically all the had in on up and running her publishing career's collapsing.

The profit she had made in selling her shares in WHC, she used to set up Mr. & Ms., with much of the **funding from a supporter husband.** She even drew in collaborating, a wedding anniversary gift.

Apostol's record-breaking publications realized high points in the country's newspaper history. Not had for a published who since called herself "both a business (a nonsense)" than, at the heights of the monthly popularity, some board members pestered on her having neglected to keep a share in her name and removed her on board.

The roots of colleagues who happened to be ostensibly shareholders removed her.

Comeback

Although she left the business in 1986, Apostol made a comeback in the publishing scene four years later, when numerous and stories freely flowered their connections with President Joseph Estrada.

She saw the regime need on reasons the lower-income readers whose devoted time by had catapulted the former movie actor to the highest office. Daring to use the colloquial English and a tabloid format to widen its appeal, the paper Pinoy Times in 1998.

Apostol took to staff of the Manila Times who had walked out of the broadsheets after it was barred to apologize over a story critical of Estrada. It was a "serious turmoil," said former Secretary of the Philippines man-commander-done Luis Teodoro.

After an abysmal impeachment trial in 2001, Estrada was ousted in the Philippines' second People Power revolution.

True agents of change

Apostol's organizations to remain when she media were called to a louder bank under her publications the agents of change. Later in 2001, she revived the first Inquirer newsstand Print Fellowship (effective Scholarships Award to Washington DC. She was also honored as the first recipient of the Gawad Plaridel, an awards program of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication in honor of Marcelo H. del Pilar, a Filipino writer who was a primary figure in the propaganda movement against Spain.

In the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awards for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, Apostol is recognized for "her courageous example in placing the truth-telling press at the center of the struggle for democratic rights and better governments in the Philippines."

Although ignored looks back with a sense of humility to moments during World War II when she survived a **shrapnel wound in the stomach,** she makes the significance of her achievements seem incidental. In various interviews, she has repeatedly said she was just "doing what should have been done."

'Education revolution'

Her present advocacy is not quite a retirement from her effort with Print Times to reach out and revolutionize the masses.

She has established "The Foundation for Worldwide People Power in 2002, to spark an "education revolution," encourage private-sector participation in school rehabilitation and improve the skills and social awareness of teachers themselves.

The continues to publish Mr. & Ms., which has taken a pro-opposition bent.

Apostol believes there to be no limit to a national awareness deeper than the changes in government leadership that climaxed the heady days of People Power.

Man with 2 organs just wants normal sex life

From page A1

The 24-year-old man from the northern state of Uttar Pardesh admitted himself to a New Delhi hospital this week with an extremely rare medical condition called penile duplication or diphallus, the Times of India said.

"Two fully functional penises is unheard of even in medical literature. In the most common form of diphallus, one organ is rudimentary," the newspaper quoted a surgeon as saying.

The surgery was expected to be challenging as both organs were well-formed and full blood supply to the retained penis had to be ensured to allow it to function normally, he added.

The newspaper did not disclose the identity of the man or the hospital to protect the patient's privacy.

There are about 100 such reported cases of diphallus around the world and it is known to occur among one in 5.5 million men, the newspaper said.

It is caused by the failure of the mesodermal bands in the embryo to fuse properly. The mesodermal bands are one of three primary layers of the embryo from which several body parts are formed. Reuters

Finally, Apo's Jim Paredes gives up on RP

From page A1

Paredes, one of the three members of the Apo Hiking Society, his wife Lydia, their three kids and a 2-year-old granddaughter left their Quezon City home to settle in Sydney last March, after almost five years of dilly-dallying.

His decision shocked friends, fans and supporters, especially those who admired him for his role in the two People Power revolutions.

One of the most influential singers and composers of his time, Paredes helped innovate original Filipino music (OPM) and had reached the top of his musical career.

At one point, he served as a trustee of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation and a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Also, he was not a poor man, unlike millions of Filipinos who have to leave for abroad to give their families a decent life.

After the bloody December 1989 coup, Paredes surrendered his green card to the American embassy because he wanted to spearhead the fight to keep the guns of Edsa 1. So committed was he to the Filipino, he decided to get rid of any means of escape.

Political fatigue

So why did he eventually leave the Philippines?

"I felt I'd already done too much in Manila," he said. "I experienced political fatigue. Nothing more was being discussed in Manila. I told my son: 'There is polarization. There are no new ideas.' People have become cynical. I had to leave. I needed to recharge. I had a good life. I went to do things in a foreign country. I told my wife I wanted to leave before I got too old."

Paredes first thought of leaving Manila during the Estrada administration. But the deteriorating health of his in-laws forced him to set aside his plans.

He finally applied for immigration when he was 47, two years past the age ceiling set by the Australian government. But the embassy allowed him to leave, stating that he was a "distinguished individual."

In December, he and his wife flew to Sydney to look for a house. He found a modest one in Rydalmere, a few kilometers from the heart of the city. In March, the entire family packed up their belongings and left the Philippines for good.

In Sydney, Paredes and his family started from scratch. Except for a few Filipinos who recognized him, he was a nobody in Sydney. His earnings from his successful 30-year musical career helped him start afresh.

PAREDES: "There are no new ideas; people have become cynical."

Investing on faith

"My fears told me not to [leave]," he said. "But I had prepared for this. It was either I finance my fears, or I finance my faith."

Today, Paredes gives guitar lessons to a dozen or so Filipinos and Australians aged 7 to 45 years. He charges A$50 (P1,800) per hour.

"I don't know that many students and it doesn't pay much of the bills," he said.

His wife runs the house—without a maid. One of the kids is in school. They are planning to move to another house soon.

"Here, a worker earns at least A$4,000 (P155,000) a month. People can live with less," he said.

Apo reunion

Early this month, Paredes met with friends, among them Apo members Danny Javier and Rubey Caravello, in a Chinese restaurant in Melbourne. It was the first time he had seen the group since leaving the Philippines in March.

The Apo reunited for an hug. It caused to-did "Kumustahan 2006," a tribute to overseas Filipinos in Australia organized by businessman Vic Alvear. They were joined by singer-comedienne Rissele Forester and sexy singer Geneva Cruz.

Paredes was enthusiastic and full of stories about his new life. He talked about his new house, what the neighborhood was like and how he and his wife and kids were adjusting to the weather. He discussed the process of obtaining a driver's license and how to deal with the Australian bureaucracy.

He was sure how his daughters had lost his bag and recounted it with everything intact. He talked about how Australians get rid of their old home appliances and furniture by putting them in their front yards for anybody's picking. This was how he acquired his TV/monitor and a garden hose.

Safe and stable

"Here, things are safe, stable and in order," he said. "I love it. People are honest. I plan to see the entire country from north to south, and the outback."

Asked to name his favorite Down Under, Paredes raved about the sunset. "It's spectacular. You have to go outside and see it."

Fellow Apo members observed that Paredes looked lesss stressed, happier and sunnier.

He's more patient now, Caravello noted. "That's because there are so many things he doesn't know here. In the Philippines, he probably lost his patience because he wanted to do so many things."

Added Javier: "There's no corruption here."

Offers

Although Paredes remains a passionate composer and singer, he has no plans of breaking into the Australian music scene.

There had been offers to do gigs, he said, but he refused to perform without Javier and Caravello. "All I want to do here is to be myself. I won't try to find out what's popular here and [sing] it. I am not the type."

At the concert held early this month, Paredes told the excited crowd—mostly in their 20s and up — that Filipinos can make Australia their home. "We can do anything here, anything good for our lives," he said.

The Apo performed songs made popular during John L. such as "Awaiting ng Pilipino sa Manila" and "Mamamatay Ang Pilipino." Both were Paredes' compositions about freedom and nationalism.

Standing ovation

The crowd turned misty-eyed and gave the Apo a standing ovation when they sang them here from the song "Minamahal". Members can now "Minamahal" from as far as Australia. Members type as Ada Or's time for change/We're tired of the system/Let's be a leader in Asia."

In an interview after the concert, Paredes said that he still loved the Philippines and would return to visit once in a while.

After all, he has not sold their homes in Quezon City and Baguio.

"We have no plans of doing so," he said.

Perhaps Paredes will return to fight another day?

All recipes from Sugar 1, Salt, 31 quality. For the sugar, I draw

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DOT counting on Chinese travel agents to spread word about RP

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF Tourism yesterday said it would intensify its city-by-city drive in China to promote travel to the Philippines, and has brought in more than 200 Chinese travel agents and tour operators for a weekend.

Rolando Canlas, director of the DOT Office of Tourism Development and Planning, said the agency will boost its "Wow Philippines!" advertising drive in the Chinese cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

"Now that we've identified the market segments in these three cities, we're expanding our promotions drive in the neighboring cities. That's not a strategy," said Canlas, who is also deputy chief of DOT Team China.

Posters of Philippine destinations such as Boracay and Bohol are visible in public parks and subways and on buses in the three cities. A DOT ambassador in Manila has been set up and ads placed on big television channels such as CCTV.

"Viza upon entry"

The promotions are paying off, as may be gauged from the record tourist arrivals from China every month, Canlas said. Last year's arrivals surpassed those from other markets such as Hong Kong and Taiwan, he said.

The DOT has been pushing promotions in China with the failure of the Philippine government's "viza upon entry" program to draw the expected number of tourists from the mainland.

"There was a problem because the Chinese wanted to secure their [Philippine] visas first before leaving. The visa has to be obtained before their government grants them official permission to leave China," Canlas said.

However, he said, the visa upon entry program did help increase arrivals because the issuance of visas to Chinese tourists, particularly those traveling in groups, was speeded up.

In the first semester, China was fourth on the DOT list of top 10 travel markets, with nearly 61,000 arrivals.

While the number showed a 43-percent increase from last year, it was still a drop in the basket given the 20-million annual outbound Chinese tourists.

Tour of Bohol

Last week, the ninth batch of Chinese travel agents, mostly from Shanghai, was taken on a tour of Bohol. They visited the island's attractions, such as Dumaluan Beach, the Tarsier Conservation Area, the Chocolate Hills, dolphin-watching areas, the Loboc cultural heritage site and the underwater sanctuary.

The 30th batch next week will be taken to Davao, a destination newly introduced to Chinese travel agents.

According to Canlas, the DOT is targeting young Chinese professionals, especially those working in foreign-invested and multinational companies (MNCs), who not only have the financial capability to do so, and are usually married with one child.

MNCs often sponsor overseas trips for employees during week-long Chinese holidays.

Accessibility

But the DOT study Chinese tourists love the Philippines' beaches, shopping and hospitality, Canlas said.

The DOT is now working to boost accessibility from China, especially because the Philippines is a newer destination than Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, he said.

He also said Philippine Airlines used to be the lone carrier from China to the Philippines and vice versa but that late month, China Southern started serving the same routes.

Malaysia, Netherlands-bound? Read this

FILIPINOS WISHING TO WORK IN MALAYSIA or the Netherlands should beware of unscrupulous recruiters who promise them jobs in the two countries but without the legal work documents, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said yesterday.

POEA administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the agency continued to receive reports of unsuspecting applicants being promised immediate jobs in Malaysia without having to go through the POEA and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

"This is an old modus operandi. Although I have already issued several warnings in the past, the false promise of an easy way to work abroad in exchange for a big sum of money is still attractive," Baldoz said.

She also warned those who want to work in the Netherlands not to do so on a tourist visa. Baldoz said that with the rising number of illegal immigrants in that country, the Dutch government is expected to implement tougher measures and heavier penalties against illegal immigrants.

According to Baldoz, the Malaysian government would soon issue identification cards with enhanced security features, such as thumbprints, to all foreign workers, as an answer to the various schemes of illegal recruiters.

Baldoz advised applicants wishing to work in Malaysia or the Netherlands to first check with the POEA if the individuals or the companies offering them jobs were licensed or not.

Jerome Aning

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 20, 2006
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Proverbs 9: 1-6

Wisdom's invitation

Wisdom has built her house
and upon seven pillars;
she has slaughtered her meats,
prepared her wine and laid her table.
Now, she sent her servants to call
from the highest point of the city,
"Whoever is naive, you are welcome here."
To the senseless she says,
"Come, eat and drink
of the bread and wine I have prepared.
Give up your foolishness and you will live;
take the straightpath of discernment."

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 15-20

Be wise

Pay attention to how you behave. Do not live as the senseless do, but as responsible persons. Try to make good use of the present time, because these days are evil. So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Do not get drunk: wine leads to laxity, but be filled with the Holy Spirit. Gather together to pray with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, sing and celebrate the Lord in your heart, giving thanks to God the Father in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, always and for everything.

Gospel: John 6: 51-58

Bread of eternal life

Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the living bread which has come from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood live with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father, who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the bread which came from heaven, unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Commentary:

May Wisdom God, for understanding, forsake foolishness and enter the house of God, for we who are foolish in our behavior: Do we ignorant or do we discern the will of God (Scriptures)? Do we worship God with others in public, giving thanks, and making sure that we worship God in fact and in reality, so? We come together to be fed until God's own life-Word and Bread (Eucharist) and His food makes us wise. If we eat and share in this life, but this life now, we will one day know God's life and wisdom in its fullness.

Claretian Publications Inc., 4 Maryknoll St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101; Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; tel. 921-3049; fax 921-9129; e-mail: cpi@claret.org; Website: http://www.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

ISLAND IN DISTRESS: Bird's eye view of Guimaras and the long streak of oil threatening its marine life and coastline. ALVIN

'Oil spill undid in days what took decades to implement'

By Nestor F. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

JORDAN, GUIMARAS—INSPIRED AND HEAVY-HEARTED, Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava showed the face of determination overshadowed by the devastation wrought by the oil spill on his once pristine island province.

"No one can truly search to borrow how the oil spill can undo in a few days the initiatives which have taken decades to implement," Nava said the other day during an emotional speech at a joint meeting of relief agencies here.

The usually composed governor lamented how the oil leak had destroyed or severely damaged marine reserves, fish fishing grounds and mangroves, while dislocating thousands of Guimarasnons dependent on fishing.

Nava broke into tears when he recalled how the island-province had been a "gem," with its long coastline of white beach, clear sea waters and a wide collection of marine flora.

'Then came 8-11'

"Through the years, we have devoted a sizeable chunk of our development fund to the improvement of our coastal resources, from projects in coastal resource management, mangrove reforestation, seaweeds, pearl, marinaculture-culture cult and shellfish industry," he said.

"Then came 8-11 [the oil spill]. Everything that we invested to conserve that the government after we would continue to enjoy the Guimarasnons that we are enjoying now.

"Then came the tragic incident of 8-11," the governor said. It was an allusion to the 9/11 Twin 2,111 terror attacks on the United States.

The oil spill would forever change the island and the lives of its people, he said.

No planes, but oil slick

"We, we did not have planes hitting our landmarks as happened in 9-11. We were shocked still not lost and got the scare of our lives with the sinking of MT Solar 1," Nava said.

He said that since the spillage hit the shores, residents had been battling it with cards and improvised means—bamboo poles with their scarves, dried grasses, used sacks and clothing.

But their efforts have been drowned by the magnitude of the spill.

At least 20 barangays in three towns of the province have been affected, including the 1,145-hectare Taklong Island national marine reserve (NMR), Nava said.

In four days, about 14 percent of the province's population (155,000) lost their main source of income—fishing.

The number of affected and displaced families has risen to 4,000 as of Friday.

And that is not all.

Poisoned mudfields

Nava said the oil slick had contaminated some 220 km of coastline and destroyed 434 hectares of mangroves and 58 ha of seaweed plantations.

The restoration of mangroves could take at least 10 years and it was doubtful they could be restored to their pre-oil spill status, according to experts.

Mudfields and fishponds have also been contaminated.

Fumes coming from the bunker fuel have caused headaches, vomiting, dizziness, especially the children.

Nava, a physician, said that reports of cases of respiratory tract infections and complaints of stomach disorders had been increasing.

He said classes in at least two coastal schools in Buenavista and Nueva Valencia had been suspended because most of the students were either coughing or experiencing difficulty in breathing.

Guimaras, home to endangered species, in peril

By Norman Bordadora

WHEN THE MV SOLAR 1 SANK WITH MORE than two million liters of bunker oil last week, some Philippine Coast Guard officials worried that the seeming oil slick affecting the internationally popular beaches of Boracay and the area's lucrative tourism industry.

What the public was not told was that the oil slick was on a direct course towards the rich ecosystems of the Guimaras Strait—home to such endangered species as the dugong, the hawksbill turtles in the green sea and the hawksbill.

"The area is tremendously rich. The seasonal species such as the dugong (Dugong dugon), green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) and several cetaceous species are found along the strait," said Nonito Donaire, a marine ecosystem coordinator for the World Wide Fund for Nature in the Philippines.

Dugongs are small relatives of the manatee and the sea cow. They are generally less than three meters long.

Mistaken for mermaids

They are often mistaken for mermaids, first, the term dugong, from the Malay dugong, which means "lady of the sea."

They have a long tube-spout but a rather slow breeding rate.

Green sea turtles get their name from the green-colored fat tissue in its body. A green sea turtle can grow up to four feet and weigh up to 400 pounds. Its compare is dark-brown but is often covered in green algae.

Top export

The hawksbill gets its common English name from its sharp beak-like mouth. This distinctive mouth helps differentiate the hawksbill from other species of sea turtles.

Hawksbill turtles are well known for their beautiful carapace, said to be in demand for many years in the fashion industry.

WWF-Philippines also regards Guimaras Strait as a major fishing ground, particularly for blue crabs, a top export commodity.

Lessons for everyone

"A spill of this proportion is simply catastrophic," Donaire said.

WWF-Philippines said much is needed to be done in the long term to prevent further damage to the area.

RP sends SOS on oil spill

From page A1

The spill is "a disaster the scale of which is completely unimaginable compared to the resources of the country," Maria Aurora Ranquilla Sadiwarsa, Greenpeace International Climate and Energy campaigner, said in an interview, adding that the government itself had admitted: "It does not have the capability to deal with a disaster of this scale."

While the people on the ground are taking immediate action, it appears that the national government has failed to use the urgency of the problem," Sadiwarsa said.

"All we are doing is damage control. Unless the root of the problem is addressed, the cleanup could take three years and cost billions of pesos."

She said she was impressed by the competence of the Regional Coordinated Operations Center, a marine ecosystem coordinator for the World Wide Fund for Nature in the Philippines.

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Plea for help

Nava said around three towns and at least 22 barangays had been affected and he estimated at least 15 to 20 percent of the province's population of 153,000 had been displaced.

"Whatever support, we welcome ... We need help from anywhere. From everywhere, of any kind," Nava said in an interview over dzLS 1260.

Nava cried on TV on Friday because of the calamity that has visited his province. (See related story on this page).

Coast Guard and local government officials said cleanup and containment operations would drag on if the leak from the sunken tanker was not stopped.

"It's like cleaning the wet floor while the faucet is left open," said Nava.

The Coast Guard and Marina said the owners of the tanker, the Iran-based Shipping Corporation (SOMC), and its captain could face liabilities for the disaster.

A preliminary investigation by Marina showed that Capt. Sridhar Appan of the Solar 1 allegedly halted the required training for all tanker operations.

In an 11-page report, Marina owners

Agustin Arnie Santiago said that while Appan was a licensed Master Mariner, the captain "does not have Advanced Navigator under a multi-flag convention, which is required for the Master on board [an] oil tanker."

Santiago said Agustin's certificate of competency limited him "to serve on board chemical tankers only."

SOMC president Clemente Gaerlan said the crew members were qualified based on international standards and requirements.

Special inquiry board

He said the company would cooperate with the investigation to be conducted by a special board of marine inquiry out next week.

"We are a small company and are deeply regret what has happened. But we will assume our responsibility," said Gaerlan.

The Coast Guard said Agustin should have not continued with the voyage because of the damage incurred by the tanker.

Coast Guard regional commander Capt. Jo Jose Thomas said in a report that Agustin decided to maneuver the Solar 1 into the Bonbon Strait around 1 a.m. last Friday to seek shelter after the ship listed 60 to eight side.

Agustin told investigators the chain locker had taken in water.

But the ship failed to drop another bower to anchor since it had been damaged, according to the report.

"The ship then was already unable to sail," Thomas said in his report.

Around 9 a.m., Agustin ordered the crew to push through with their voyage but the ship listed again a few minutes later. The captain decided to return to Iloilo but ordered his crew to abandon ship when the vessel sudden to listen to right side.

"He shouldn't have continued sailing," said Thomas.

Marina said that because of the rough seas, it was more likely that the air ventilation was damaged during the pitching motion of the ship.

In all probability, seawater started to enter the ship and flooded unaffected spaces, causing it to list, a Marina report said.

Ramon Garp, which had chartered the tanker, said it had organized communities in the municipality of Nueva Valencia to begin cleanup operations as affected shorelines. "We are tapping nearly 800 people from the barangay under a multi-day search scheme to begin cleanup operations today. We will likewise equip them with proper tools for the shoreline cleanup," said Virginia S. Ramirez, Petron's public affairs manager.

"We are ... providing essential goods to the affected communities. We have likewise marshal linear with various foundations and groups to seek their assistance in our relief efforts," Ramirez added.

She said Petron had also provided equipment, formed oil spill response teams and sought experts' assistance to help in the cleanup and containment operations.

"Technically, the liability for the oil spill damage rests with the shipowner/operator," Ramirez said. "However, we believe that a sense of responsibility to extend every assistance than we can to the province of Guimaras."

Western Visayas police director Chief Supt. Leony Ibarra claimed Petron had only lifted 60 people for the cleanup operations and that it was to operate on "very sensitive" compared to the magnitude of the problem.

"The hunt is spewing 100 to 200 liters of bunker fuel per hour and to date nothing concrete had been done by Petron to address the 1.6 million liters still under water."

"It's like sweeping water from a swimming pool using a teaspoon," Ibarra said.

He said the oil slick had spread to within 3 nautical miles of the shores of Barobad and of Buenavista Shores, Iloilo.

Jordan Lumaba, a Greenpeace volunteer, said the group had seen dead squid, mangroves, corals and fish kept in the Guimaras area covered with oil sludge.

Department of Tourism regional director for Western Visayas Edwin Tiempoco said the spill was spreading northeast and could threaten tourists hubs like Bacolod City in Negros Occidental, as well as southeast Iloilo.

"Bacolod could possibly be affected in the immediate time. So will the rest of the northern region like north Panay if the spill is not arrested immediately," Tiempoco said on dzRH radio.

With a report from Jerome Aning

IOM: More than just getting OFWs out of harm's way

From page A1

loaned on graphic and tables, they recognize our pain because they have made the Filipino evacuation process with considerable ease.

"I would say that yours is one of the smoothest," said Shaw Boyd, an American who has served as IOM Philippines' regional representative for the last four years.

"Cosmopolitan" may not be a term often associated with 18 Spine domestic helpers...who complete most, if not all, of the evacuees. Four lived more or less in the evacuation returnees who actually required less assistance" from IOM staffers compared with others involved the repatriation.

"They are the most organized group when it comes to moving en masse—and also the friendliest ones," added project manager Ida Mae Fernandez, quoting field reports from Beirut and Damascus.

Some Filipino women, while awaiting rides themselves, had even volunteered to act as "interpreters" for women of other nationalities who could speak neither English nor Arabic well enough, especially when being treated by IOM medical teams.

"They are like a barangay in miniature," Fernandez said.

At the evacuation center in Beirut, she said, "the outgoing group designates a cook for the incoming group, and so on. I've heard of at least two Filipino evacuees who decided to extend their stays longer at the center so they could exercise organizing."

'We don't want them'

Despite Boyd's long years in IOM, "still the most moving thing for me is seeing people coming off the planes, either crying or shouting for joy."

"Caught in someone else's war, they are just happy to be here," he said of the OFWs. "And it's a great thing for the Philippine government to be welcoming them back."

In many cases this year, Boyd disclosed a disturbing, largely untold, aspect of OFW's misery in Lebanon:

"We have cases where people have called to say they want us to go back to their country but their own country says 'We don't want them' or 'We'll take them only if [OFW] does and pays for everything.'"

He declined to name "these countries" but said they should not be criticized outright because they apparently had "war zones" within their own borders or were too mired in internal problems to worry about their citizens stranded abroad.

'Not really new'

Founded in 1951 and with a present membership of 118 countries, IOM has been running an administrative center in the Philippines since 1981.

IOM Manila currently holds offices in Makati City.

"We've done this before, so it's not really new," Boyd said of the ongoing aid for OFWs. The last time IOM brought home thousands of Filipinos from a foreign conflict was during the Gulf War.

IOM also made headlines in the country a few months back when it facilitated the immigration of the last remaining Vietnamese "boat people" from the Philippines to the United States.

Among its major evacuation missions were those driven by the conflict in Rwanda and East Timor, and that caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004.

Reconsideration

As it is, Tarik Aziz Lebanon is considering asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to reconsider her decision to lump home all OFWs in Lebanon, but only if the evacuation there would allow their continued stay.

Vice President Noli de Castro, head of the task force and Mr. Arroyo's adviser on OFWs, and Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos announced the yesterday after touring the decreasing number of Filipinos clearing accommodation and repatriation.

It was the task force that recommended to the President the evacuation of all OFWs at the height of the war in Lebanon.

Speaking on his radio program, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan," De Castro said the movement of OFWs from Beirut to Damascus en route to Manila was reassuring despite the prevailing UN-sponsored ceasefire between Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters.

50 a day

He said the task force would have to reassess the situation under a postwar scenario after Israel reports that have been collected.

According to Conejos, the number of evacuating OFWs dropped from a high of 450 a day during the war to a low of 50 after the declaration of a ceasefire.

"The ceasefire has two phases—first, the cessation of hostilities, and second, the withdrawal of the Israeli army in Lebanon and its replacement by Lebanese and UN peacekeeping forces. The major indicator of [one] final decision is [whether the Israeli forces have withdrawn]," Conejos said, adding:

"If [our decision] will be based on the security situation in Lebanon and the reports of our men on our evacuation efforts. We will await their reports."

OFWs are now taking commercial flights from Syria to Manila at the rate of 50 a day, the government said. This is deemed cheaper than chartering a plane with a capacity of 450 passengers. With a report from Cynthia B. Balana

Young Mayon evacuees vaccinated vs measles

By Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—(UPDATED) At the different evacuation centers in filling have received measles shots from the provincial health office (PHO).

The target is to vaccinate at least 15,000 children between the ages of 6 months and 14 years, said Marilyn Peñaranda, PHO supervising nurse.

Daily and weekly surveys of the water and food supplies, shelters, and kitchen and garbage situation are being conducted by the health office, said Dr. Luis Mendoza, Albay provincial health officer.

The medical teams are also in the evacuation centers daily, Mendoza said.

Aside from immunization, the PHO is also concerned with nutrition, providing medicines for the sick, disease surveillance and stress debriefing.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Mt. Mayon produced two minor explosions yesterday, one less than the previous day's one.

In a bulletin issued yesterday morning, Phivolcs said the explosions occurred at 3:55 a.m. and 4:14 a.m.

Phivolcs said that on Friday evening there was an "apparent decrease in rockfall activity and a noticeable decrease in the intensity of glow from the lava deposits in the middle and lower slopes of the volcano."

It said the present estimated volume of erupted volcanic deposits was about 36 to 42 million cubic meters.

The Mabinit, Buga lava flow events and is advance very slowly and the toe of the lava deposit was within 3 kilometers from the center.

The seismic network detected 22 volcanic earthquakes, indicating the continuing ascent of magma to the crater.

There have been 240 tremor episodes recorded, which were mainly caused by lava extrusion and rockfall activity while the sulfur dioxide emission rate decreased to 2,732 tons per day from the previous day's rate of 3,937 tons, which, according to Phivolcs, reflected active magma degassing.

"These fluctuations really happen during the ebocritical times of high level of unrest of the volcano," said Eduardo Laguerta, senior seismic research specialist and resident volcanologist.

He said Phivolcs would have to observe and monitor these changes.

"If the changes are abrupt, then this means that there is a possibility that there would be a major eruption," he said.

"Unless there is a gradual decline, then we would have to observe the parameters and signs for at least a week or two, then we will decide whether to lower the alert level or not."

He explained that they summed to be careful because in 1984, after a week of quiet, Mayon suddenly blew up and triggered a big pyroclastic flow.

Alert level 4 remained in effect, which means that a hazardous explosive eruption may occur at any time.

The public has been advised of the 8-km radius fenced-off Danger Zone, especially in the southeast sector of the volcano.

THE RED GLOW on the tip of Mt. Mayon is the only sign the seemingly peaceful volcano is active in this early morning photo taken Saturday. Alert level 4 remains in effect and experts maintain an eruption could occur at any time.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Get it out, now

THE GREENPEACE REPRESENTATIVE CALLED IT right. The tanker-turtle Solar 1, which has already leaked some 30,000 gallons of oil into the waters off Guimaras, is a "ticking time bomb." Under undulating water pressure, the vessel's tanks containing the rest of the ship's load, some 450,000 more gallons of oil, may also rupture. When that happens, the disaster we have in our hands will turn into a catastrophe.

EDITORIAL

"The longer that tanker stays underwater, the greater the danger," says Von Hernandez, Greenpeace campaign director for Southeast Asia.

As it is, the oil spill is already one of the worst in the country's history. The border oil from the ship, leased by Petron Corp., has already covered some 200 kilometers of shoreline, of an island more famous for its mangoes and beaches. Part of the shoreline has already turned into sludge, and marine life has already been compromised. An advisory has been issued warning against the use of fish and shellfish caught in Nueva Vizcaya, Siburan and other affected barangays. The result: decreased incomes for fishermen, a decline in the food supply for affected residents, the diversion of local resources to the massive cleanup drive. The tourism industry in the area, too, looks like it will soon take a hit.

But all this will look like a regular fiesta, if the ship's other tanks burst under the pressure of 3,000 feet of water. Then, the immediate need is for either the tanker to be raised out of the water, or for the remaining oil to be siphoned off. And yet, nine days after the ship sank (during which an entire season could have been sold), it remains exactly where it is, ticking like a time bomb.

The Coast Guard commander in the area gave vent to his frustrations yesterday. "What has got up our goat is that we know a lot of talk about what should be done but nothing has happened. That ship sank over a week ago and officials are still talking," Harold Jander told Agence France Presse.

That, in fact, is the impression we also have. Those responsible for the oil spill (the officials of the ship owner, the badly misnamed Seashine Maritime Development Corporation, as well as the executives of Petron, which chartered the tanker) talk as if see have the luxury of time, or as if talk were a substitute for action.

It is, of course, important that the damage from the oil spill be placed under immediate control, and to this effort Petron has donated boons to hold some of the oil back; donors have given not only relief goods (the affected villagers) but also cleanup tools (such as fans, rice straw, even human hair); volunteers have rushed to the shore line to collect the sludge. But it is even more crucial that the oil spill itself be contained. The beast must be defused. Or, to use another image: It is not enough to merely plug the leak, when the pipe itself is about to burst.

It is painful to realize that the Coast Guard does not have the actual resources to raise the ship or siphon the remaining oil by itself. But Petron is a billion-dollar corporation; it certainly has the resources to hire the right equipment from anywhere in the world to remove the rest of the ship's load of bunker oil.

Let us make that extra clear: While the cleanup work is crucial, we believe that the real priority is preventing the rest of the oil from leaking into the sea. Petron's cash-for-work scheme, for instance, where some 800 villagers will be contracted to help in the cleanup, is an important part of the damage-control effort. But it cannot be a substitute for the real priority work—one so old more hard to the ecological fire.

Cost of torture

I TWO LINE HOWLER TO THWART FUTURE TERROR PLOTS if extraordinary measures were not adopted. But this poses an ethical dilemma for every political system: Will torture be one of those measures?

The value of the extracted information is in doubt because whoever is subjected to torture would say anything to escape the pain. We must seriously undertake measures to prevent the main cost of torture: the huge loss of face and credibility of the government that make use of it.

FOREIGN COMMENT

For example, the political cost to the US armed forces of use of torture, as symbolized in the Abu Ghraib scandal in Iraq, was surely higher than the benefits gained in terms of intelligence.

Therefore, one needs to evaluate with extreme caution the prospect of using such means at hand, even if successful, would ruin the values we are fighting for. Carmen Delfa Sanz (Milan, Italy)

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Neither here nor there

SEPARATE OPINION

Jaygund A. Cruz

IF I HAD KNOWN THAT MANUEL QUEZON III was gay, I would have detained from writing that column last week in homosexuals out of respect for a fellow columnist. But now that he has removed nigility and called me a bigot among other names, I have no choice but to reply.

I resented that column with the caution that it was not intended as an attack against homosexuals in general and did not include "those who have behaved in a reserved and discreet manner unlike the vulgar members of the gay community who have degraded and scandalized it. I offer abject apologies to those blameless people I may unintentionally included in my not-inclusive decision. They have my admiration and respect."

As Mr. Quezon himself does not consider himself among the exceptions, he would be what we lawyers call a "proper party," or one who is directly injured. In fact, he appears to be severely wounded by my remarks and is hemorrhaging profusely. He, therefore, has a right to reject in my "insults" in the warpath manner he saw fit.

He calls me a hate monger for ducking the vulgar practices of his kind and says I have no right to say what is unclean and undesirable. Who has—he? Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said that the freedom of speech includes not only the right to express the thought that agrees with us but also the thought that we abhor. Voltaire was granddisgusted: "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Criticism is essential to the free society and it is unfortunate everyone rights are exercised. But that may be expressed under this freedom are not confined only to those that are sympathetic or acceptable, for that would make the freedom more shadow than substance. To be really meaningful, it should permit the articulation of even the unorthodox view, though it is hostile to or resented by others. One of the purposes of this freedom, in fact, is to invite dispute.

If I do not appreciate the paintings of Picasso, any more than the doggerel I write may suit and repulsive his reasons. But he cannot attack me personally for criticizing his idol. Mr. Quezon compares me to the tyrants in the police states where unacceptable identity or thought is systematically exterminated. In the free society, ideas are contested with ideas; not persecutors. Prior to a bare decade ago, being an Elliott Winston Churchill called on his countrymen to wear the enemy with all their blood, sweat, toil and tears, was he a hate monger in the despicable sense of the phrase? That is what Mr. Quezon would call me for criticizing his kind.

I am a hate monger against godless, murderous, rapists and other criminals, but I only dislike the coarse homosexuals he defends, as a bit right. Also disagreeable to me are straight persons who wear loud clothes, fashion, hairstyles, handbags and other unpleasant figures, male and female, in our imperfect society my I have the right to criticize them even as they have the right to reply to the common exercise of our freedom of expression.

It all depends on what and where you hate. If I criticize homosexuals who disgrace their sex with their lascivious practices and appearance, any one among them may rise in defense and say why they should not be called obnoxious. But not in an obnoxious manner.

Mr. Quezon faults me for disagreeing with some practices of his kind that I find loathsome. He and others that they have the fundamental right to hate me—the opposite here, in homosexuals—delights with and with whom we aspire to share a life marked by a measure of domestic bliss and emotional contentment."

Who's interfering with your romances? As long as you are not violating the law you are free with more business, and I for one do not give two your amorous affairs. Nor do I want to.

The important thing is that you have no right to demand that I agree with your pleasures or to forbid me from criticizing your "emotional contentment" if they offend the public interest. You cannot claim a preferred treatment because you are what you are even as you may you should be treated like the rest of the people despite what you are.

Finally, repeating my reservation that my criticisms are only for the distasteful among you, you proudly declare: "I will not embrace him, not for that, much less shake his hand or kiss him. I see opportunity for mediated disagreement." That opportunity is not yours to give, Mr. Quezon, and as for not embracing me—thank God.

Available and humble

MOMENTS

Fr Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A TOURIST who, while touring a Bush's American country, was shown a bullfight. The guide told her, "This is our No. 1 sport."

The horrified woman said, "Isn't that revolting."

"No," the guide replied, "that's our No. 2 sport."

* * *

In today's Gospel (John 6:51-58), the Jews found Jesus' discourse on the Bread of Life revolting. How can he give the flesh to food, and His blood as drink, they asked among themselves? In fact, many of the Jews and not a few of His followers dropped by during and following His after the miracle of that His flesh is true food and that His blood is true drink. It's hard to say, but if you and I were living then and heard this man say such absurd words, maybe, we, too, would have left Him. Above the man demanding His message, more than accepting His message, Jesus is asking all of us to find trust Him and believe in His person.

* * *

Jesus was not afraid to risk and even lose His popularity and acceptance by the people. He told the truth. He did not manipulate it. He did not sugarcoat it. He did not stop it. For Him, the truth is the truth—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Take it or leave it. Along with that was also the choice to take Him, or leave Him.

* * *

Why follow a leader? Perhaps we can answer this question by paraphrasing the literary's 4-Star Test: (1) Is he/she truthful? (2) Is he/she fair to all concerned? (3) Does he/she build goodwill and better relationships? And (4) Is he/she beneficial to all concerned? Note that the primary question is about truthfulness, and the last question is about being beneficial. If we were to follow Jesus as our leader, we must, as He did, put truth above expediency.

* * *

There is a story about a 2-year-old who swallowed a one-peso coin. The mother pulled him up, turned him upside down and sharply hit his back, and the child coughed up two 10-peso coins! What did she do next? She fed him more one-peso coins so that more 10-peso coins would come out!

Revolting, isn't it? Yes, it's revolting how money has become the holy-all-be-all, the controlling factor and the final denominator in our world today. It is so hard to talk about the Bread of Life in a world that only wants bread. So, do we stop talking? All the more we must proclaim Gospel truths and Gospel values to shed light on what is happening around us. How far easier to conform, to play safe, to play dumb, blind and deaf. If the word of God does not move us anymore, if the word of God does not disturb or entertain, that only means we have stopped looking for the Bread of Life and have cast our eyes on plain and simple worldly bread.

* * *

When we experience persecution or rejection of any kind because of our proclamation of Gospel truths and values, we take consolation in the Lord's promises that truth and justice will prevail in the end, and soon. When we go for the Bread of Life over worldly bread, we are assured of His message—that He will be with us, always. And if it is of any consolation, worldly bread does not last, and we cannot take it with us when we die; while the Bread of Life, Jesus, stays with us, and will bring us to eternal life.

* * *

The Living God makes Himself available for us as food in the form of bread in the Eucharist. Perhaps, we too should reflect on our available-ness to others, especially to the poor, the needy, the outcasts, the sick, the lonely, those who find themselves out of touch or beyond reach. May we never be accused of being so far away and detached from people who need us. Are you available? Are you reachable?

* * *

The Eucharist reminds us not only to be available but to be humble as well. If only we learned to be more humble before God and before our brothers and sisters! A lot of our problems could be solved if we knew how to humble ourselves. May the Eucharistic Lord remind us to humble Himself to our level and to conduct ourselves out with pride, but with humility.

* * *

Before this day ends, perhaps, you can do something to live with availability and humility. Start with your own family. Are there people you have not visited, called or talked to? Are there people you have neglected or have not made time for? Are there people you need to help or work out so? Let the Eucharist mean to out of our shells and comfort zones to become "food" for other people. Remember, the Eucharist is not just about receiving it, but much more about giving and sharing it.

* * *

Please say a prayer for us, your priests, today that we, the ministers of the Eucharist, may become truly lowers of the Eucharist. Pray for us to be truly available and humble like the Eucharistic Lord. Pray that we, who administer the Eucharist, become not just dispensers of the Eucharist, but become living Eucharists as well.

* * *

Bunny Miranda invites you to a lay forum on Depression & the Elderly at Jesuits Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Blvd., Quezon City on Aug. 26, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call 3732282 for inquiries.

* * *

"God is love, and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him."

Be inspired by daily Bible verses, text 09+capsico+0BCE and send to 2940 for Globe/Tm or 3940 for Smart. God bless you, Manna-Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Eucharistic Lord, help us to become available and humble like you. Amen.

'Uniform Code of Military Justice' for the AFP

MANILA STANDARD TODAY

REVEILLE

RAMON J. FAROLAN

MANILA STANDARD TODAY

REVEILLE

RAMON J. FAROLAN

Because the public learned from their spokesmen in the chronicles of officers accused of the same offense—some call it a double standard—the Marines were recently moved to a naval staff house at the Bonifacio naval station, guarded by Navy personnel other than Marines.

I mention these cases to bring out one glaring fact. The Armed Forces of the Philippines does not have a uniform code of military justice. We are still relying basically on Commonwealth Act 408 which is no longer responsive to realities.

In the United States, the foundation of military law is the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Barely more than a century is not evident on the Articles of War, a law enacted by the US Congress on April 1806. It was only in 1951 that the UCMJ came into effect. Some 250 years after, it still has substantive and the procedural law governing military justice and its administration in the US United Forces. It supersedes the articles of War and provided for the first time in the history of the United States a single law for the handling of military justice in the armed services. All its members are subject to the jurisdiction of the Code.

The word "uniform" in the Code's title refers in the limits of Congress to uniformity or consistency apply military justice in the armed services.

One example of the provisions of the Code has to do with the subject of "Apprehension and Restraint." Sec. 813, Art. 13, Punishments Prohibited Before Trial, says: "No person, while being held by civil authority for trial, may be subjected to punishment or penalty other than arrest or restriction upon the charges pending against him, nor should the arrest or confinement imposed upon him, be any more rigorous than the circumstances required to insure his presence."

Perhaps, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz could take his enemy into account in his Philippine Defense Reform Program.

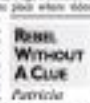
* * *

Last week, the Philippine Military Academy alumni association unveiled a sentimental tribute to former of the PMF class, Director General Oscar Calderon, PMA class of 1970 and the AFP chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., class of 1974. The PMA Alumni Association is to be headed by Calderon Roland Pamugatan, class of 1973, as chair; and by Catalino Angelo Bongalon, class of 1977, as president.

At the cocktails prior to the dinner, someone remarked that it was necessary for General Esperon to be available for consultation on appointments. At the moment, his promotion to lieutenant general (three stars) relies he was the commanding general of the Philippine Army is still hanging since he was bypassed by the commission during its last hearing. The law appears to be quite clear that promotions of the officers are only be considered as appointed once confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. In fact, in the Philippine foreign service, ambassadors cannot assume their posts unless they are first confirmed by the commission. We have an unusual situation in the armed forces. The Air Force and Navy chiefs, (a. Gen. Jose Reyes and Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, respectively, have been confirmed. The Army chief, Retired Major Gen. Ingonal, and their he was promoted to AFP chief of staff. The program area part of the failed from the "Hello, Garci" controversy. Although the "Hello, Garci" gatemen were cleared by the Mayuga Report, obviously this did not interest some of the members of the Commission on Appointments. Hence, the delay in confirmation. One report which could now remedy "top course" in cases of national security concerns.

Rage against the dying of the light

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT TRUTH, AND JUSTICE, AND THE people who get caught in between. Mina schall an hour's ride from Quezon City, now-stained factories and cut swaths make way for ghastly fields drowned in brown water and a reminder hillboard that says "Sea. Rice. I Am." Beyond the blue and white cockpit, a sign proclaims Welcome to Barangay Marikit, Bataan, the place where dictator machismo is revered still, treated



REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

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REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

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judge pounds; pass a man to red shorts carrying a plastic bag with a 2-liter bottle of Coke, to the Chamber of Dr. James.

I walk into the church and find a young girl in a school uniform sitting at a pew. I ask her where the refugees center is. She pulls open a wooden door, and I follow her into an anteroom. Although modern in appearance, there is almost a cobbled path to a green, green garden and out into a sprawling concrete courtyard.

The refugees stay in what was once used as a convent. Nuns called Buenas Dei, the House of God. The nuns' antiquity is evident in the bedrooms: in tapped down on the mattresses, made bugles of tulle hanging down the room over as makeshift closets. Pending issues from local masses, the church and private individuals. I am told the refugees have enough to survive was more week.

In the darkened kitchen, a teenage boy sits to a table and runs a steamy meal off a plastic plate. He looks up and smiles. "Kuya po."

In a perfect world, where laws are followed and soldiers train to protect the people, no order of battle (OB) is an organizational tool used by military intelligence to list unit-level enemy forces and their location. In the Philippines, an "order of battle" is an excuse to play God in the wish-lists to circle the exits of communities. Those on the lists are as good as dead. To be in an OB list does not always mean you are an armed rebel. A busy name isn't or a supposed sympathizer, a neighbor, a cousin, a cousin on the wrong house or one of the dozens of human rights documents who get caught in the crossfire.

Beside me, on one of Dolman Dell's rattan armchairs, Celestina Warren, called Tina, rolls one her roots. She is a slight woman in her late 40s, her lower neck protruding to her chin a bit because Bataan Jose-del Rosario's hospitality is rare. In around man went to his office recently introduced himself as one of Maj. Gen. Aurelio Baligad's men and asked for help in locating the people in his OB list. Tina, a human rights advocate, was at the top of the list.

Her husband, Jonathan, is not here. Tina met without consultation now is hiding, with others from rounding him at both home and office. Tina is worried, and we just for him—in her group of advocates, there was one left behind, the one Tina calls house-keeper all of 70 years old, and also in the order of battle.

I had to ask Tina why Dolman Dell is more than an hour's ride by sandwich is filled with their stories. There is Jil, who looks like a college freshman, all pulled hair, glasses and sneakers. His family was hunted out of their home because his true siblings are suspected of being NPA members. There's the 16-year-old, Jonathan Jacob Dela Cruz, Bulacan, Bulacan, who lived in the OB list even going around and that confirmed men, wearing hoods, had begun slaughtering his people. He called the commanding officer in his office demanding an explanation, and was told it was an exercise in peace-and-order to weed out sympathizers. When the nurses asked what they were to do with the bodies of the people, the officer answered, "kill them." They're currently informed Baras Cadres that he was last on the list.

Bantam Almadrote is the most recent arrival. He is not on the order of battle, it is his brother Amante who is a member of a Bataan people's organization that was raided by soldiers on Aug. 8, 2006, in the unfound item that Pantao victim wounds his machinist, five days after his wife gave birth to their second child. The Bataan PNP under orders of Major Benito go, involved the family in Bataan Del, and Mariano to a hospital.

I may have the top most assigned to the Bataanese family in Bataan Del. It is a small, shadowy room with a wooden bed and an uncovered mattress on the concrete floor, home to four women—two sister in laws, Bantam's wife Irene and his mother—along with five children and a 2-week-old baby. I stop the questions. Bantam's wife Irene, a pregnant 25-year-old mother separated siblings Patricia to home from the hospital.

The sunlight shoots off the tin roofs, and people gather to the courtyard. All is quiet, even the children have stopped their playing. A tall man wraps toward us, his right arm swinging to the rhythm of his steps, his left dangling by his side. He looks straight ahead, staring and looking even when his mother started touching him, her palm on his chest, then the tips of her fingers sliding from rough cheek to chin down. Joy.

They sit him in the edge of the wooden bed. On the floor, his 3-year-old daughter sits staring at him. Her brothers lie her, his one arm cannot seem to function, as the baby is put on his knee, and he clutches it to her, and the cloth that are ripped from her dress are torn. his stumblings nearly into the baby's face. I watch him for a while, then look away, until they take the baby away as he can be done, but did not to: filling his gaunt and large eyes on the bed.

Bantam's older sister is across the room, whispering to the tiny baby. She is calm, but I see her stop and grip the edges of the bamboo mat. I notice because it hurts my palms—and sometimes when I'm angry. Bantam's wife Irene is also crying, crying as he a corpuscle and searched a desperate father thing to his wide-eyed daughter. I think of my father, and her guilty because I'm glad this time, this wounded man isn't him, glad that my father is safe in eastern his restaurant post. They said those with accused old gun-toting rebels.

In Bataan, Major General Pedrozo could be it in the hospital because of a fever, and cannot possibly go to court. In Bataan, a tired man lies on a wooden bed, his useless arm hanging by his side because he cannot afford treatment in a Manila hospital.

This is the story of the 2-year-old baby who will not understand why she cannot swing on her father's arm. It is not a new story, but it is one that is rarely told, and much rarely heard.

* * *

For questions on supporting Bataan Del, or comments on this article, write to pia.evangelista@gmail.com

Bring the women home

COMMENTARY

Dennis Murphy

The needs of poor children for food, medicine and schooling are immediate and call to the heavens for answers

DIFFY AUTUMN, MILLIONS OF MONARCH butterflies gather in southern Canada. They fill the trees and, with their numbers, changing the color of the trees to vivid orange. Then they migrate to spend the cold months down that season in the warmth of places like Mexico. Monarchs have beautiful and fragile bodies, but they fly over 3,000 kilometers to arrive in Mexico.

In Hong Kong's central business district, every Sunday, thousands of other beautiful beings line the sidewalks and walkways, fill up the public spaces and parks, and transform the city into a humane area into a happy Filipino picnic ground. They can be confirmed to be Hong to talk, are Filipino: food, play cards, sleep and sell, mostly, good and bad, about their Chinese employers. And they are women who are remembered by Don ... Our capital ended at for the words of a song. How can we sing the songs of the Lord in an alien land?"

I am a young overseas worker active at the airport in Manila one night. After we waved for her baby in her husband's arms, but the baby howled and turned away. The woman cried and, maybe, she wondered if her work was all worthwhile.

The woman like the homeless are legion.

Early morning at Mass in the Caronian Sisters chapel, a woman prayed at the Prayers of the Faithful: "I pray God that we may all go home someday." The same woman nodded in agreement.

That's the question: how do we bring the women at home?

We were in Hong Kong just after President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address, in which she declared the government's goal for the next four years. It was natural to wonder what the infrastructure plans—the bulk of her talk—might mean to the women workers and their chances of going home, or to the poor women all of Filipinos who have an average of P1.00 a day to feed their families of five or six people, a day that guarantees the children are malnourished; or to the widows of slain Negros farmers; or to the mothers suffering at the foot of a foul-smelling garbage dump in the Calirayan relocation center; in short, what in the connection between the proposed infrastructure and poverty reduction? Is there connection?

At best it is indirect use. Experience shows us that workers, such as highways and airports, benefit the well-off people first and predominantly.

Its abundance and career approach to ending poverty is a suggestion that is not convincing. It is one of those words, "We must raise incomes in reducing poverty level," in Remember S. Ito, Domingo. In the article which Secretary on the Millennium Development Goals, ADB's chief economist called Ali says: "ADB target may only be achieved if we decide to do social and education for the poor unless we do-can, it's difficult to imagine achieving anything meaningful over the next 10 years."

He says Malaysia and Vietnam have countries moved on both infrastructure for the poor and are closer to meeting the goals of reducing poverty than the Philippines.

It's now a question of infrastructure on the one hand or health and education on the other. We need both. And we need them now. Is the situation good? The poor shouldn't be sacrificed by economic growth. The needs of poor children for food, medicine and schooling are immediate and call to the heavens for answers.

If poverty lessens, the women can come home from Hong Kong. The workload in finance can stop at 9 p.m. Maybe even Negros will know peace, and the garbage dump in Calirayan will be just a bad memory.

* * *

Denis Murphy works with the Jesus Dos Association.

Emergency rule

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

public officials, including members of the Cabinet and the armed forces, to investigations in aid of legislation. But it also gave the executive enough leeway to undo these investigations and prevent top officials from appearing in such hearings. The Court declared as illegal the actions that the police and the armed forces committed under PP 1017. But in affirming 1017 as constitutional, the majority opinion has given the President a state of national emergency, the Court also effectively legitimized its later premises.

The underlying thesis of these premises is that opposition politicians, members of leftist groups and insurgents have been conspired with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army to overthrow the duly constituted authority. Mr. Arroyo's assumption of emergency powers on Feb. 24 was, according to this thesis, a prerogative that the Constitution grants to the President in order to defend the state. While the Court ruled that the declaration of a state of emergency did not give the President new powers, it tacitly recognized the validity of Malacañang's assessment of the national situation. The implication is that the President has the discretion to call out the armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence.

The underlying thesis of these premises is that opposition politicians, members of leftist groups and insurgents have

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to ...@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Jane V. Santamaría Jr.

Cheating in nursing exams

IT WAS A CLEAR CASE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST. GEORGE CORDERO WAS THE PRESIDENT OF the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA), which nominates members of the Board of Nursing (BON). He also prepared the questions for the nursing board examinations, when the exams were administered on June 11 and 12.

Cordero also happens to be the owner of a school for health sciences, including nursing, and a review center in Manila.

Cheating marred the board exams, with certain questions given to scores of examinees beforehand.

It appears that the review centers that "leaked" the questions in Cordero's Institute for Review and Special Studies (Inress), Inc. (or any graduates who had enrolled at Inress and the R.A. Gapuz Review Center, which Cordero established in Quezon City) before the exams. Centers had been furnished a number of questions and answers for Tests II and V before the exams.

As a Senate hearing on Wednesday, a nursing graduate, who took review classes at Inress, spoke of the questions leaking to the review center.

Another examinee claimed that Cordero had boasted that he did not pay P7 million for cooking and that he brought two BON members to Switzerland and paid for the trip, according to the notes that the BON submitted to the Senate.

Amid these allegations, Cordero resigned as PNA president. He has not responded to the allegations.

The controversy has not been settled. The Professional Regulation Commission has given the go-signal for the catch-taking of some 17,000 who passed the board exams. Acting on a petition by a group of students, nurses and school officials, the Court of Appeals stopped on Friday the catch-taking.

The group calls for the nullification of the results, saying that the leakage would cause "irreparable damage" to the country's "public health" and the prospects of Filipino nurses working abroad.

Confession of an examinee

By Dennis Cesar Allan Bautista

AFTER GRADUATING, I ENROLLED at the Inress review center on Taft Avenue in Manila for the comprehensive review course under the R.A. Gapuz Review Center Manila for the final coaching course in preparation for the June 11-12, 2006 nursing licensure exams.

I also attended review classes at the Inress Review Center on C.M. Recto Avenue in Manila. Inress is considered the in-house review school of the Philippine College of Health Sciences Inc. (PCHSI).

Review classes at PCHSI are held at PCHSI. As graduates of PCHSI, we're encouraged by the school to take our review classes in school house.

On 20 school days (June 5, 2006), I went to my school and learned that Inress would conduct a "final coaching" on June 8 and June 9 in the morning at SM Manila. So, on that dates, I went to the school.

Before starting the "final coaching," Ernesto Cordero, whom I know as the president and owner of PCHSI and Inress, and president of the Philippine Nurses Association, welcomed all of us previous and passed a mid call at the different schools and colleges in the land nation.

Reprimanders

Cordero said, "Last year our passing rate was high. Last year our rate was average but we had four repeaters here. This time I notice a high passing rate again and many on the top 10. If you're on the top 10, I will reward your names. But the dentists [who took up nursing] are excluded."

Afterwards, Cordero told us that the topics included in the board coaching were only psychiatric nursing and medical surgical nursing. Psychiatric nursing will be on the first day while medical surgical nursing will be on the second.

In substance, he told us, "There are the items included because there are the difficult parts of the exams. You can benefit the remaining three topics because you benefit those in the review classes. We have 300 questions in psychiatric nursing, 100 questions will come out in the test."

Then, the "final coaching" proceeded. The 300 questions were projected on the screen through a powerpoint presentation. A review instructor read each question and one or four possible answers appeared as they flashed on the screen. After reading the possible answers, the instructor would tell us the correct one, and, sometimes, explain the correct answers on the screen were highlighted.

Keyword

At times, when the instructor told us which choice/answer were to a particular question, the crowd reacted loudly, interpreting on the instructor that the answer given might be wrong, and on the instructor's part, he'll tell us "Relax, ONCE the answer, if you see that answered, that's what you should answer."

On June 9, Cordero again motivated all of us and spoke a wild talk of the different schools and colleges he had invited. He told us, "Our medical-surgical nursing, we only have 200 questions because you the invited the others at your review school."

Just like the previous day, every time the instructor heard a loud reacted from the crowd when a question is posed on the screen, the instructor said, "How could be your answer when you are the topmost?"

During the two-day final coaching, none of my friends and I saw the leaked drawn the questions and situations and the suggested answers that were flashed on the screen. At first, I took down many notes, but because I got bored writing I decided to just listen. Later, I asked my classmates and friends for photocopies of their notes as I had their notes photocopied. So, after the final coaching, I was able to get a photocopy of the questions, issues and situations and their suggested answers.

On June 11, the first day of the nursing board exams, I ran to-point when I took the exams because I was quite surprised when I took the exams because I was quite surprised when I took the exams because I was quite surprised

Across the NATION

Cedula rush to earn ₱20M for gov't

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—SOW TERROR AND more at least P20 million in taxes from Nueva Ecija and Bulacan residents alone.

That, according to the militant Hukbo ng Bayan Pandemong Laban ng Hirang Hinirang (Army of the People Against Tyranny), was the reason behind one of the tasks to retirees given by soldiers assigned by Gov. Jeorge Pulpuan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division operating in Central Luzon.

The military's latest task in handing community edicts or quotas, which require villagers to show their cedula (community tax certificate or CTC) as proof of their tax payment, is said to be the second objective after the collection of intelligence reports on suspected members of the New People's Army.

Pulpuan called these reports "black propaganda" by Left-leaning organizations and the New People's Army.

Bonifacio Ubiop, Pandakaki chair, said Pulpuan, who published articles here called a "butcher" for allegedly orchestrating the killings, was "letting two birds with one stone" in the campaign.

"One is to terrorize people and the second objective is to make money from collections," Ubiop said in a statement here.

The P20 million, he said, was a "bonus prize for the state-terror campaign" by Pulpuan.

Ubiop cited as a basic community tax of ₱5, the government stands to earn ₱4.5 million from Nueva Ecija's 1,039,883 residents in 27 towns and five cities.

In Bulacan, the collections could reach ₱5.17 million from 2,234,000 residents of 22 towns and two cities.

If the cedula would be required on a monthly basis, he said the collections could go as high as ₱240 million yearly.

In a phone interview on Saturday, Pulpuan called Ms. militants's allegations as "unsupportable."

"There are all the efforts of the propaganda of the Left and the NPA," he said, adding that he was tired of reading the stories on the cedula system for days now in the papers.

"We are not raising money here. We are fighting the new order," he said.

GMA promises ₱500M to help ARMM projects

COTABATO CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo agreed to release P500 million in supplemental fund for the economically-struggling autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), according to Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan.

ARMM has already spent its P630 million initial aid for five years.

The ARMM leadership is in the process of asking Congress to extend the grant of the P630 million yearly subsidy as embodied in Republic Act No. 9054, the law that created the expanded ARMM.

"We are very much thankful to the President's concern knowing that the region's P6.3 billion budget this year is not enough to fast track development and be at par with the other regions in the country," Ampatuan said.

According to Ampatuan, the President assured him and the local leaders of all-out support to the ARMM.

Mr Arroyo promised a P500-million fund assistance, while officials of the autonomous government were lobbying Congress approval of its request for a supplemental budget of P1.1 billion, he said.

Ampatuan said that out of the P6.3 billion budget, 80 percent goes to personnel services, 22 percent to maintenance and operating expenses and 18 percent for capital outlay.

In a regional Cabinet meeting last week, Ampatuan underscored the need to monitor all ongoing projects and ensure that reporting of projects accomplishments on paper should match with the actual situation on the ground.

"I don't want to hear inconsistencies in your reporting," said Ampatuan, addressing himself to the ARMM Cabinet.

"I made a commitment to the people, to help uplift their living condition and develop the region economically and socially. We (must) do (it) to help our nation," was Ampatuan's appeal.

Lawyer Jewel Dandam, in charge of the region's social fund that takes care of foreign-assisted projects, said Ampatuan's governing policy of "transparency and accountability" turned ARMM's project implementation in a "very satisfactory" by the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Besides Gov. Mehol's labor said various ongoing infrastructure projects in his province "only show that the regional government is sincere developing ARMM." Danilo C. Antang, Inquirer Mindanao

Govs back Palawan stake on Malampaya

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE LEAGUE OF Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) recently issued a resolution declaring full support to the province of Palawan in its claim over the Malampaya natural gas.

In an assembly held this month, the league of governors (LPP Resolution No. 2006-127) pledge support to Palawan's bid to get an equitable share in the proceeds from the use and development of the natural gas found within its territorial jurisdiction.

Since the commercial operation of the $4.5-billion project in 2001, Palawan has not yet received its legal share from the gas revenues, which are projected by the Department of Energy at $2.1 billion over a 20-year period starting 2002.

The national government under President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration does not recognize Palawan's claim.

According to national public pronouncements of the President, the natural gas project is outside the territorial jurisdiction of Palawan.

In reaction, the provincial government filed a petition at the Palawan Regional Trial Court in Iwahig to Palawan's ownership of the mineral-rich Malampaya in Southwest Palawan.

RTC Judge Bienvenido C. Panuelos ruled in favor of Palawan by saying that it was entitled to the 40-percent share of the national wealth, according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Bienvenido has also granted a request to freeze the share of Malampaya and ordered deposited in escrow.

The office of the Solicitor General, representing the national government, elevated the petition to the Supreme Court. Adelle B. Rosete, Inquirer Southern Luzon

PANALO KA sa REY

Liba-Libong Pera at Exciting Showcases ang Ipamimigay!

PAANO MAGING PANALO:

1. Magkaroon kang isang (1) raffle ticket sa bawat ₱300 na halaga ng isang beses (single receipt or accumulated) sa anumang Rey Home Center sa Carnival Plus branches mula Agosto 16, 2006 hanggang Hulyembre 15, 2006.

2. Ipakita ang invoice ng iyong pinamili sa kahera ng Rey Marketing, Inc.. Sabihan ng "Ticketed" ng tago-Rey Marketing ang iyong invoice at ibalot ng tago-Rey Marketing ang mga tatak na invoice at ipinakita ng kahera sa iyo. Kailangan ang tago-Rey Marketing ang may tatak na invoice at ipinakita ng kahera sa iyo. Pakibalot ang iyong pangalan, tirahan, contact no. sa likod. Pamalan. Huling araw dalo sa Rey drop box.

3. Deadline for submission of entries will be on November 15, 2006 at stores closing time.

4. Ang mananalo ay bubunutin sa loob ng Rey Marketing Pasig Showroom, C. Raymundo Ave., Rosario, Pasig City on November 29, 2006, sa harapan ng Rey Marketing representative at DTI representative.

5. Ito ang mga exciting prizes na ipamimigay:
Major Prizes
₱120,000.00 CASH plus Bedroom Showcase
₱120,000.00 CASH plus Living Room Showcase
₱120,000.00 CASH plus Kitchen Showcase

Consolation Prizes
•Twenty (20) Five Thousand Pesos Rey Marketing Gift Certificate
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6. Ang desisyon ng REY MARKETING, INC. ay mag-apprereal ng DTI ay final.

7. Ang mga premyo ay non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

8. Isang kawa lang puede manalo during the entire promo period. Kung sakaling makuha ang iyong pangalan ng higit sa isang beses, makukuha mo ang mas mataking premyong ipamimigay.

9. Winners will be notified through registered mail.

10. Kung ikaw ay panalo,

11. Ang pangalan, tirahan at litrato ng mga winners ay ilalatag at mga pangpahayag pahayagan.

12. Sasagutin ng Rey Marketing, Inc. ang lahat ng buwis at gastos.

13. Shipping costs for winners outside Metro Manila will be shouldered by the winners.

14. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days from the receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of REY MARKETING, INC. with prior approval of DTI.

15. Ang mga empleyado ng REY MARKETING, INC. or CERAMICS PLUS, INC., their affiliates, and all their suppliers, and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity ay hindi maaaring sumali sa promo.

Bedroom Showcase
Cash Prizes and Gift Certificates
Living Room Showcase
Kitchen Showcase

Dalil Hanggang November 15, 2006 lang ang promo!

REY Home Center

Permit to operate raffle promo issued by the Department of Trade and Industry, National Capital Region (NCR) per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2100 Series of 2006

Cops say they busted land grabbing syndicate

LUCENA CITY—POLICE SAID they busted the operations of a big-time professional land grabbing and squatting syndicate planning to dupe thousands of landless residents in Gumaca, Atimonan, some 155 km south of Manila.

In a report submitted Aug. 12 to the Quezon police headquarters, here in Camp Nakar, Insp. Marino Bulfate, Gumaca police chief, identified the syndicate as the Wilfredo Sumalinog Farms group, known in national police files as one of the biggest gangs of professional land grabbers in the country.

Reports said one Andrew Lagdameo, owner of a parcel of land in the village of Culimpak, filed a complaint at the local police station, where unidentified persons who allegedly identified several billboards inside her lot.

Lagdameo presented TCT-3600 registered under the name of the late Adela and Aurora Lagdameo as proof that her family owns the piece of property.

The billboard reads "No Trespassing Private Property, Propiedad ng Wilfredo Sumalinog Development Corp. (Dadiera), (supreme Court decision in Civil Case No. 3920-B) promulgated June 28, 1968."

Police noticed the questioning brothers Jim and Raynel Mendiola, residents of Gumaca, Quezon, who were tagged by residents as the ones who put up the billboards.

The two introduced themselves as representatives of Prudence with offices at Rm. 305 Cubcon II Bldg., No. 84, Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

Police said Raynel has also been implicating himself in the area as an official from the Ombudsman's office.

Authorities found that the two have distributed a so-called "Certificate of Occupancy" to at least seven families residing inside Lagdameo's property in exchange for P2,500 supposedly as processing fee for a home lot.

The certificate was signed by Wilfredo Sumalinog Sarwa as Pardon chair and Ilac Mercado-Instituto as area coordinator and counsel officer.

In a phone interview, Culimpak village chairman Jerry Villanueva also disclosed that Rolbino Virtucio, one of her barangay policemen, was also fooled by the syndicate and had already handed more than P1,80,000 to the Mendiolas in exchange for the right to harvest local 15 hectares of land in Lusacan.

Reports said the Mendiolas claimed close ties to the Lusacan group, which has a total land area of 22,000 hectares, a part of the huge property of Nadeza under an ancient title.

Police said the two exceeded in the legality of the Spanish title based on an alleged Supreme Court decision on June 28, 1968.

However, Lagdameo, who has been challenging the police garbed evidence against the syndicate, managed to secure a certified photocopy of a Supreme Court decision on Dec. 29, 1970 which declared "Titulo de Propiedad No. 4130" as "null and void."

Lagdameo also found that Prudence was not a listed company as the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"We believe that we have successfully foiled the plan of the syndicate to deceive thousands of unwary landless residents of Gumaca-gan," Bulfate said.

He said they were forced to enforce the Ombudsman's orders due to the existence of criminal charges against the two.

Lagdameo said she also reported all the cases to the Camp Crame-based Anti-Squatting Task Force and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council for proper action against the syndicate.

It was learned that Pardon is also allegedly the subject of a police investigation over charges of large-scale illegal cutting and land grabbing involving huge trees of land in the provinces of Bulacan and Rizal. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

CURIOSITY
A girl peeps through the bakarans of a school in Legazpi City to take a glimpse of President Macapagal-Arroyo who came to visit villagers who were evacuated from surrounding near Mayon.

Roundup

Ex-village chief shot dead

LUCENA CITY—Two unidentified men on a motorcycle on Wednesday shot dead a former village chief in Candelaria, Quezon. Apolino report said Diosdado Cruzat, 43, former chair of Barangay Ibabang West, was shot to death from his temple with his 14-year-old son still inside the violence erupted over a dispute between Cruzat and other barangay officials within the 45-point. The victim managed to fight back and stab the suspect with his hunting knife but the gunman kept on firing until Cruzat fell to the ground due to multiple bullet wounds in his body. A bystander, identified as Arvin Pangan, was hit by a stray bullet in the right arm. The wounded assailant fled on a red motorcycle. Police launched to establish the motive for the killing.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Woman dies in Cebu fire

CEBU CITY—An elderly woman died after she was trapped in her house in a fire that razed 20 houses in the densely populated Sitio Mahaba Ma. Hpolo, Mandaue City on Thursday morning, Mandaue City Fire Marshal SFO1 Roy Garcia identified the victim as Benevenda Canap, 86, whose body was recovered after the 15-minute fire that occurred at 8:30 a.m. Garcia said Canap was alone in the house since her husband was out working. A fireman, identified as Fidel Ramon Batitan, suffered third-degree burns in the left arm after rescuing Canap from the burning house. The fire destroyed 20 houses and displaced 80 of the residents could be saved by defective electrical wiring in the complex. No neighbors above the roof of her house.

Jhonee Rapalican, Inquirer Visayas

2 rebs slain in Surigao clash

DAGAS, Surigao del Sur—Two communist rebels were killed while suspected enemy troops in a clash in San Agustin town around 11:15 a.m. Saturday. Surigao police director Chief Supt. Antonio Nafas, said a clash occurred when about 100 New People's Army rebels stormed the San Agustin police station. He said about a dozen policemen were in the station during the attack. The firefight lasted for more than an hour before the rebels retreated. The bodies of the slain rebels had been recovered. Nafas said. He identified the wounded policeman as SPO3 Ignacio Jaro. Hundreds of passengers were also stranded when traffic was stalled because of the clash.

Ben Pacafa, Inquirer Mindanao

Davao Sur's most wanted nabbed

DIGOS CITY—Police on Thursday busted the six-month of Davao del Sur's most-wanted person, Alonto Dimaong, 37, surrendered to the police after almost two hours of negotiations. Senior Supt. Leonardo Diaz, Digos City police chief, Senior Supt. Nestorio Pinili, provincial police chief, said police raided Dimaong's house in Barangay Balasa. The suspect has been in hiding for months. Members of the 1103rd provincial mobile group and the provincial anti-city intelligence division were ready to launch an assault on Dimaong's house but surrendered. Dimaong is a top ranking military commander, a resident of Magsaysay, Davao city and the person in the province's only 2 police's worthy of attention. A mobile search was also made looking non Manny Pacquiao of General Santos City, for having paid the highest income tax for year 2004.

Charlie C. Zaitsev, Inquirer Mindanao

City dad in beating

SAN PEDRO CITY—A city councilor who figured in the beating of a community organizer columnist and radio television host so that a city council-sponsored multimedia committee can meet on Friday night. Antoni Cacapio, public affairs committee chairman of the city council, said the meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at the office here that city councilor Edgar Adajar head him up at about 8 p.m. on Aug. 13 for an undisclosed place in this city. Cacapio said he immediately went to the San Pedro City Hospital for minor injuries and then complained to the police. Recently, Adajar also figured in an alleged beating of another prominent, Nenita Medina, a radio TV host commentator. The incident was caught on camera and shown on national TV. Adajar, however, denied having Medina and he said he was only joking when he told the victim to "go his hands. The councilor could not be reached for comment since evening Cacapio's complaint.

Inquirer Southern Luzon

Biliran starts health program with Japan funds

By Noemie Lobre
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—ACCORDING to officials in the island province of Biliran, new hope for proper health care with the implementation of a P2.3-million health project that was funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina said the Jica-funded Maternal and Child Health Care project aims to reduce the high maternal and infant mortality rates in the province.

"We are glad that our province has been chosen by the Jica as one of the recipients of their development initiatives, through the Maternal and Child Health care program, where we aim to reduce the mortality incidence through a four-year technical and assistance package," Espina said.

He said with the assistance in hand, they "are looking to facilitate to have an enhanced maternal and child health care delivery system at all levels of health care delivery."

During the four-year project implementation, Espina said they hoped to strengthen emergency obstetric care service delivery and establish a system to all levels to support pregnant mothers and newborns.

"With this kind of cooperation and presentation on delivery that I have started to implement in this province, I am confident that we will be able to attain these in time," the governor said.

Dr. Alfonso Veneracion, Biliran provincial health officer, earlier reported that Biliran has the highest maternal mortality rate at 207 per 1,000 population as of 2005.

One of the components of the Jica-funded health care program is the provision of medical equipment to some 35 barangay health stations and to all barangay health centers in the 132 barangays of Biliran province.

The project also includes the provision of a sea ambulance that would transport patients from the island town of Biliran to the capital town of Naval where the provincial hospital is located.

Among those who attended the project launching last Aug. 11 were Dr. Norito Ando, health official of Japan, and Dr. Rolando Director of the Department of Health central office.

Alternate fuel seen to grow from 2M ha of idle land

By Norman Bordadora

IF EVERYTHING GOES according to plan, the country's debt-ridden economy will soon turn with trees that will not only power the earth from erosion and flood but would also provide huge quantities of alternate fuel for the country.

Rodolfo Lizada, president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Forest Corp. in Philtrust, said the government has more available 45 unproductive public lands for the planting of *nito* trees.

"The decision to pursue the commercial cultivation of the *lo-ho-nito* tree for bio-diesel production has no part of the government's total approach on reducing the nation's dependency on imported petroleum and other fossil fuels," Lizada said.

"All that we need to determine, now, which the private sector interests has shown such a keen interest, and the cooperation of any farmers, indigenous and cooperatives and local tractors, or cha-kulong."

"With a minimum of processing, the *nito* tree bio-diesel can run diesel-powered motor vehicles," Lizada said.

Philtrust, a subsidiary of the Philippine Resources Development Corp. under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, was created to complement with President Macapagal-Arroyo's instruction in October 2005 to step up reforestation.

It was supposed to work on corporation, wholly government-owned and controlled, on Jan. 24.

Philtrust has been given the responsibility to undertake the agro-reforestation projects of the NEDC, the primary purposes are to of the 2020.

Philtrust's *nito-lobo* cultivation projects will cover public idle lands, such as mountain sides and denuded forests.

"This is to ensure that *nito* in its full function does not encroach into farmlands already devoted to food and other commercial crops," Lizada said.

Philtrust recently chose that 2 million hectares of public land will be available for planting to *lo-nito*.

"Individuals or organized farmers and agribusiness companies interested in entering the project," he said, "will be allowed access to these state properties by complying with minimal requirements set by Philtrust."

"Besides producing an alternate and renewable energy power for bio-economy the project is intended to generate fairly needed jobs and livelihood opportunities in the rural areas and eventually, economic economic growth," Lizada said.

Lizada said that even if only 2 million hectares of the idle lands are planted on *nito-lobo* in 10 to 15 years, this would allow the total production of 5.6 million liters of bio-diesel a year.

"This is a volume sufficient to make a significant cost reduction in the domestic demand of seven billion liters a year," Lizada said.

WATER RESORT
Camarines Sur Gov. Elisa Vildoria, (center) vice chair of the Philippine Waterski and Wakeboard Federation (PWWF), receives from Ryan Neuhard, international Waterski Federation (IWF) president, a souvenir symbolizing the accreditation by the IWF of the PWWF.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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'Dream weavers' spread B'laan culture

By Rapelen T. Zenia
Malapatan, Sarangani

FOR THE B'LAAN WOMEN OF Upper Lasang in Malapatan, Sarangani, mat weaving is a product of both traditional belief and art.

Weaving, in B'laan culture, is an expression of the women's relationship with their god D'wata. Each mat has a unique design inspired by divine guidance, as well as their dreams and creative imagination. Hence, the women are popularly called the "dream weavers."

When he assumed his post in 2004, Gov. Miguel Dominguez initiated programs to help uplift the living conditions of indigenous peoples (IPs) and to preserve their beliefs, customs and traditions. He created the Indigenous Peoples Development Program (IPDP) to look after the welfare of the IPs and the Inboard of Living Traditions (IBTI).

At present, Sarangani has three ILTs, which serve not only as knowledge centers but also as exhibit areas for indigenous arts, products, designs and crafts. They are found in the village of Upper Lasang, Landilew in Malungon town, and Mellgang in Kiamba town.

The school in Upper Lasang focuses on preserving the B'laan art of mat weaving; ILT-Landilew features "tadel" or the B'laan art of cloth-making; and the Mellgang ILT centers on the B'laan art of brass casting.

The ILTs are some part of the tourism culture revival of the province. They receive assistance from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

A WEAVER trains youth on cloth- making. PHOTOS BY RAPELEN T. ZENIA

Preserved

Through the IPDP, the art of mat weaving in Upper Lasang has been preserved.

Elizabeth Parmasa, program manager, said that last year, the provincial government hired two master weavers—Maria Walmelo, 56, and Marinlan Tumandan, 55—to train youths on mat weaving.

Now, 18 students are helping the masters preserve and propagate the skills.

The weavers specialize on sleeping mats, although Parmasa has been encouraging them to produce new other products.

"Preserving such a craft is a source of joy for residents here especially women. We help them improve the quality of their products so while enjoying they are also earning," Parmasa said.

Sacred

Tumandan, who learned to weave at 21, said the artworks served as a door link between man and his creator, and are thus sacred.

Before making any pattern or design, she said she first sought D'wata's guidance. She believed that the the designs were imparted to the dreamer through the *bulong* (totem), who were considered guardians of nature.

For the dreamer, she said, would not tell what it was she saw for if it was a private matter between her and the D'waata.

The raw materials and tools used include the leaf or vanilla leaves, a knife (*dikit*), dye (*gilaw*) made up of yellow, green, violet and red, and a wooden stick (*lao*) to smoothen the dried leaves.

If her students began planting the *buli* and vanilla when demand for the products increased.

Before weaving, rituals are held in accordance with the B'laan culture, but only the weavers know about these.

The leaves are dried, dyed and woven.

For ordinary designs, preparation and weaving would take about one weeks. But for the intricate ones, the process could take more than a month.

Weavers cannot just work any time. Weaving is usually done in dawn, before bedtime or during the rainy season. The leaf leaves are supple and easy to weave during these times, Tumandan said.

Tabili, one of the three remaining arts of weaving among the IPs, has been preserved in Landilew as a result of the immediate intervention of the provincial government.

The governor's office, through the IPDP commissioned two master weavers of the tribe to pass on the skills to the young.

Arsenia Viernes, 58, one of the two surviving weavers, said there were two complex designs—Tabili Bukit and Tabili Andara. The latter is more intricate as it consists of more than 100 strands.

The Landilew schoolmas also ventured into native handicraft, accessories and other products.

Rolito Landeo, president of the Landilew Tribal Weaver's Association, said her group earned around P45,000 last year from selling native products.

B'LAAN tapestries are displayed in School of Living Traditions in Landilew. Marinlan Tumandan, 55, weaves an intricate Kalinga design. (Photos at right)

Magsaysay awardee walks with heroes daily

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Davao City

EVERY DAY, HE WALKS WITH heroes, whom he credits for the phenomenal success of the Gawad Kalinga (GK) Foundation, according to Antonio Meloto, this year's winner of the Ramon Magsaysay award for community leadership.

"The thing is if you bring out the greatness in people then everyday you walk with heroes," Meloto said of the countless "extraordinary people" working silently to make the foundation the inviting movement for poverty reduction by building homes for the poor.

Meloto, who was in Davao City on Aug. 13, said he did not expect the award to come. "We don't work for it," he said.

He would rather say that he was accepting the award on behalf of thousand of volunteers "Filipinos here and abroad and for people who have not stopped hoping for the country."

"To me, it's an honor because Gawad Kalinga is a restoring the honor and dignity of the people," he said.

The energy and enthusiasm of the Gawad Kalinga volunteers to help is what fuel and inspire everyone to do the same, he said.

Meloto believes in the infinite source of goodness and generosity among the Filipinos "but they just don't know how to unlock it."

Today, the GK foundation has extended its reach, drawing more Filipinos and even foreigners to join in their cause.

Meloto said the group next move focusing on bringing at least a million volunteers in a program dubbed the "GK 1Mill" or Gawad Kalinga 1 Milyong Bayani (3 bows).

This will include, he said, a steady stream of Filipinos working and living abroad who have been donating to the foundation.

"There is still so much to be done," he said. "The country's problem is so massive that the government alone cannot address it."

HELOTO (Inset)

Turning point

Meloto said the turning point in his life was when he joined the Couples for Christ movement in 1981.

He was 25 years old then and had decided to shun the corporate world and pursue dreaming of ways to help Filipinos without homes or land of their own.

Growing up in Bacolod City, Meloto said he was also a product of poverty. But education turned the fate around.

Although he has reached the highest level of his career in business, Meloto said something was amiss in his life, having in mind the countless people who desperately needed some help. The GK was thus born in 1991.

"To me, the greatest treasure is not in the pocket, but in the heart," he said.

Real hope

The GK is selling hope to the people, he said. But this hope can be felt and touched, "and not based on fantasies."

Thousands of families nationwide now have homes, and GK volunteers plods in their resources and time to build more houses.

Currently in the pipeline work is the construction of thousands of houses in at least 3,000 hectares of donated land.

The foundation's grand aim is to have 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years or the "GK7" program.

"We simply have to unite the nation for us to rise again," he said, adding that "this is a best time to be Filipinos."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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NURSING STUDENT MEMBERS of the National Union of Students of the Philippines demonstrate the effect of the nursing board exam leak in a press conference yesterday

Invalidate oaths taken by nursing grads, CA urged

By Arlie O. Calalo, Marlon Ramos and Tina G. Santos

THE GROUP OF NURSING PROfessionals that successfully got the Court of Appeals to stop the scheduled Aug. 22 oath-taking of successful examinees of the taint-ed nursing licensure examinations yesterday asked the appellate court to "invalidate" the oaths that some 2,000 examinees took before the CA could issue a temporary restraining order.

In a "supplemental/urgent motion for prohibition" filed late Friday, the group asked the court to order the Professional Regulation Commission to "refrain" from implementing its Memorandum Order No. 2006-163 which allowed PRC topnotchers to administer the oath, starting on Aug. 17, to those who passed the June 11 and 12 nursing licensure examinations whose integrity has been tainted by reports of a leakage in the test questions.

The petitioners—the League of Concerned Nurses and the Students' Nurses Association of the Philippines—believe the PRC issued the memorandum to "defeat the ends of law and render moot and academic" their original petition seeking to stop the Aug. 22 oath-taking.

The first petition also asked the court to order the PRC to cancel the results of Nursings Board Exam to recompute the grades to arrive at the passing score and order the BON to conduct a new examination for the pain of the examinees by leaks.

Last Friday the CA granted a 60-day temporary restraining order to stop the Aug. 22 oath-taking, "to preserve the rights of the petitioners pending disposing of the subject petition and so as not to render any judgment between moot and academic."

By then, PRC Chair Leonor D. Rocero had issued the memorandum order directing all PRC regional directors to register only the oath-takers to their respective regions.

The memo was "obviously intended to close the door on any judicial inquiry into the actions of the PRC," the petitioners said.

They therefore asked the court to "invalidate all oath-taking done under it to restore the status quo ante" this date of affairs that existed previously."

More than 2,000 examinees had already taken their oaths last Friday upon getting the go-signal from the PRC and before the CA could hand down its TRO. Rhea Giovanni Cabrera and Rhina Estela Puerto Inquirer Northern Luzon

Dante Ang heads leak probe body

BAGUIO CITY—THE CHAIR OF THE commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) has informed the nursing school officials he has taken charge of an independent investigation into the test leakage they exposed during the licensure exams here in June.

Dr. Belinda Pelagenia, former governor of the Davao region of the Philippine Nurses Association, said CFO Chair Dante Ang met with PNA officials and members on Thursday to appoint them of Executive Order No. 550.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 14 signed EO 550 mandating the CFO to ensure that the country continued with its bid to have the Under Liberal Statistical Control Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for nurses established a center in the Philippines.

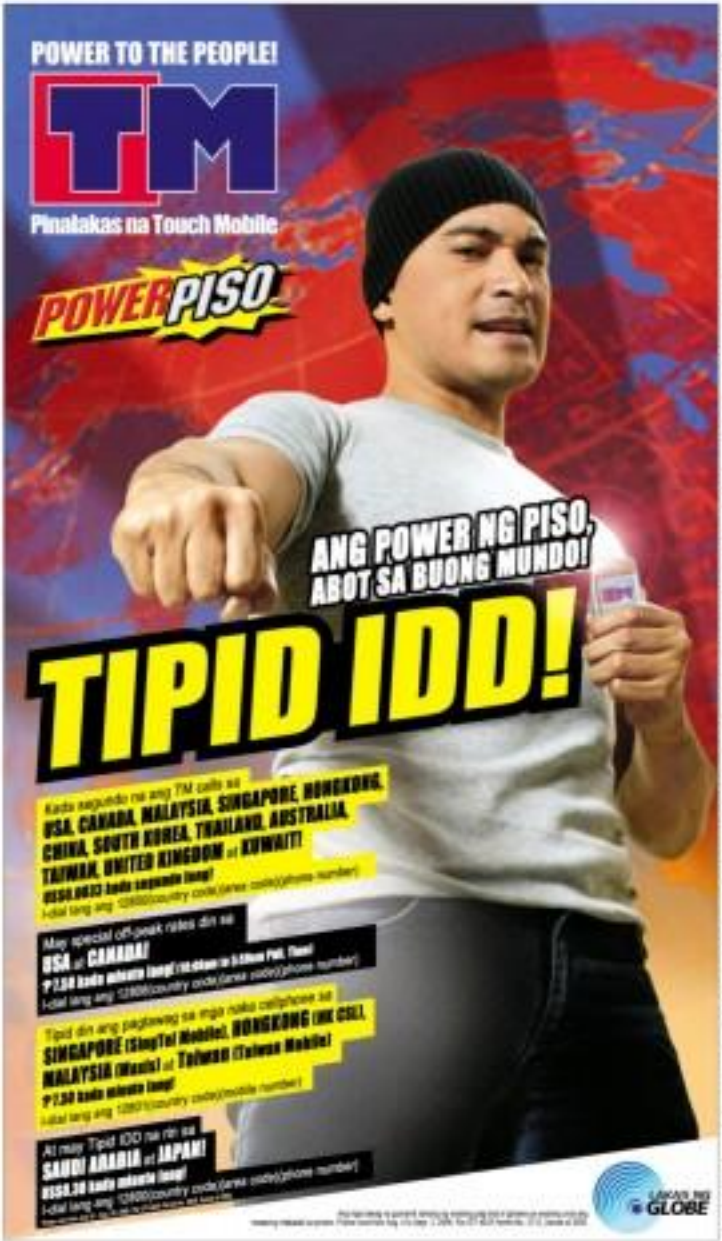
The NCLEX is an entry level prerequisite for Filipino nurses before they can practice in the U.S. Due to the absence of a test center in the Philippines, many Filipino nurses have to go to NCLEX centers in Hong Kong, Guam and South Korea.

The country's bid for an NCLEX center was the supposed reason PNA officials tried to stop the exam leakage from being exposed, according to Mary Grace Lanzanita, nursing school director in Luzon Enterprise.

Pelagenia and other Baguio-based PNA members petitioned the President to intervene last week to resolve the crisis plaguing the nursing profession.

"If we cannot persuade the PRC [Professional Regulation Commission] to clean up [its ranks], we need to go higher up to a body that can counteract the PRC's misinterests," she said in an e-mail to the Inquirer.

"Ang will start exercising his power and authority granted by RA 7164 to ensure the cleanup and secure the NCLEX establishment in the Philippines," Pelagenia said. Vincent Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon



Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Artists' Fair
August 27, Sunday
The Loft at Rockwell

Remembrances and the streets of Manila

By Luis R. Sioson
Contributor

Escolta has retained its name but not its unofficial title, 'Queen of the Streets'

A CALESA, the former King of the Road, waits for passengers in Binondo.

THIS once beautiful building on Rosario Street in Ermita is being demolished to give way to a condominium.

Philippine General Hospital.

The old Ateneo and its next-door neighbor, Assumption College on Isidoro Ateneo (Galvez Street) and Pedro Gil (Taft Ave.), have been replaced by Ateneo's newer and sprawling mall.

At the corner of Padre Faura and J. Bocobo Street (Nebraska) is a cream-colored rendezvous-turned-restaurant, its charming balcony and stairway remarkably well maintained.

Oldest 'real' bookstore

The nearby Montero Building also on Bocobo, has been re-

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SC asked to reconsider ruling on Naia case

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PARAÑAQUE MINOR FLORENCIO Bautista Jr. has asked the Supreme Court to reverse an its decision last month which struck down the city government's bid to collect P620.3 million in real property taxes from the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

In a motion for reconsideration filed last week before the high collegial, Bautista said that preventing a local government from collecting property tax from a government-controlled corporation violates its jurisdiction was "misleading, unfair and favoring rogues."

Antilocal government

"I believe this decision would defeat the primary purpose of the Local Government Code which is to strengthen local government units and make them autonomous and self-reliant—the principal requirements in attaining national progress and development," the mayor added.

The SC division had declared in its decision issued on July 28 that the buildings and property of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) terminals 1 and 2, as well as the Manila Domestic Airport, were owned by the government and therefore tax-exempt.

It also nullified the auction sale of the airport lands and buildings conducted by the Parañaque City government on Feb. 7, 2003.

"There is no point in national and local government casting each other useless a sound and compelling policy requires such transfer of public funds from one government pocket to another," the court had said.

Confusing

Bautista, however, noted that the SC had validated the taxability of several government-controlled property such as the Bureau Cebu International Airport (MCIA), National Power Corp., Bataan Power Corp., Luzon Cluster of the Philippines, Government Service Insurance System, Philippine Ports Authority, Social Security System and Light Rail Transit Authority.

"The Cebu City utilities entity must think MCIA while the Parañaque government cannot exercise its taxing powers over Ninoy Int'l since for the power must for the gander, too?" the mayor said.

Remembrances and the streets of Manila

From page A-1

phased by a condominium. Ulog was a popular jazz joint on the same street. I loved José's. Architectural bookshop, probably the oldest "real" bookstore in the city, still sells books on P. Burgos. Everbest Bookshop, once the hangout of poets, English majors or anyone looking for hard-to-find books, was once a neighbor.

Ze's Cafe and Mama's Bakeshop at the corner of Amapola and Bonifacio streets will serve their famous ensaimadas, tuscin bread and pottery coffee. The cart has outlived the other coffee shops in the neighborhood—Tasa de Oro, Country Bakeshop, Rolling Pin and trusted Supermarket's.

To the west of Pedro Paterno, corner Simon Boulevard, one faces the unending view of rundown buildings side by side with a modern glass, steel and concrete structure. On this corner once stood a beautiful mansion owned by a prominent family. It became school here.

Beside Colegio de Santa Isabel was the same quiet, tourist hub and a row of naughty bars. The park in front of it is no longer called Plaza Ferguson but Susana Delano de Cuna.

On UN Avenue is the Philamlife building, inaugurated in 1961. It has a well-maintained theater that seats 1 (and still is) a venue for memorable musical performances and stage plays. The glass-paneled cafeteria, with its adjacent chapel and indoor garden, drew thousands of faithful patrons for lunch and merienda.

Across the avenue is the Manila Bankers (formerly Manila Merchants and then Solidbank) building. Still eye-catching in the tall white and green Don Alfonso Sycip Building, standing at the corner of UN Avenue and M.H. del Pilar.

Delightful sight

On a quiet narrow street called Arlumbres (but commonly UN Avenue or Del Pilar), in the old Dakota house, a striking two-story white building with a black iron-railed balcony overlooking the street. It is a delightful sight amid towering structures and a tangle of telephone and television cables.

The renowned Bayview Hotel, built in 1930, still stands at the corner of UN Avenue and Roxas Boulevard. Across is the Bel-Air Apartments building, designed and constructed in 1937 by National Artist Pedro Aida Siling.

Opposite are the former Elks Building and the fabled Army and Navy Club where members of the elite hosted parties or watched plays staged by members of the theaters community.

Beyond the stench of graceful apartments and glamorous hotels beckons Binondo, the world's oldest Chinatown. Binondo Bay where people watch magnificent sunsets.

Northward across Jones Bridge, are Plaza Moraga and Plaza Goiyansan of Binondo. The cropland squares that once comprised the city's throbbing center of commerce now lie desolate to the shadows of aging buildings.

The El Hogar Filipino, almost a century old, stands forlorn on the seedy southern side of Juan Luna Street (Anloague Street, where Capitan Tiago's house is. Jose Rizal's "Noli me Tangere," once stood.). Standing beside it are the concrete remains of the old Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank on storied San Gabriel Street.

Further north, intersecting Juan Luna, is Escolta Street where Rizal's house was located and where his mother supposedly waited and prayed while he was being escorted to his execution in Bagumbayan (Luneta).

El Hogar, standing by the banks of the Pasig River, still has a number of tenants. Its ground floor gets flooded when the smelly Pasig River—thick and brown-ish—swells when filled with solid waste filler. The dank color of old buildings follows you as you gingerly step on improvised wooden planks to avoid the muddy water.

Nearby, the old Insular Life Building facing the Ayuntamiento Building (constructed in 1914) in Plaza Cervantes looks dreary and worn, shorn of its emblem of a proud eagle perched on top of its small dome. The top floor used to house radio station dzRH that featured in its programs popular movie stars in the time like Rosa Rosal, Jaime de la Rosa, Pugo, Togo and other newsmakers.

Rizal slept in this hotel

On the same small block stood the First National City Bank of New York and the Bank of the Philippine Islands. Paredes (Rosario) Street still does some business. Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz (Plaza Calderon de la Barca) in front of Binondo Church teems with pedestrians and motor vehicles. On this square once stood Hotel de Oriente, a "five-star hotel" that Rizal patronized.

Escolta has retained its name but not its unofficial title, "Queen of the Streets." The Crystal Arcade, Botica Boie, Heacock's, Alhambra, Estrella del Norte, Dee Hua Lim Building and the Escolta Theater are still there. Escolta has been revived as a pedestrian mall on Sundays.

THE ELYSIAN Filipino building on Juan Luna Street near Jones Bridge.

THE OLD Insular Life Building on Plaza Moraga Street, Escolta.

A LOCKSMITH still plies his trade on Ronquillo Street in Sta. Cruz.

A dying Escolta

Escolta has been dying all those years though some businesses still remain. Five-can movie theaters Capitol and Lyric are long gone. Nueva Ecija, where Andres Bonifacio once worked as a sales agent of Fressell y Cia, now carries the name E.T. Furbergeo.

David Street is now Prado Street while across the City College of Manila (formerly the Philippine National Bank head office) is Calvo Building. Isaka Street, the Jose Rizal memorial below, is unrecognizable.

The three-storeyville building (now Time United) and Regina Building still stand strong, proud sentinels at the entrance to Escolta from Sta. Cruz Church. The Samanillo Building, constructed in 1928, was designed by Architect Luis de Luis Bello, son of painter-patriot Fabi Luna.

Neglected and unnoticed by passersby is a historical marker honoring pastor-newspaperman Benito Mariano de Basquez (Bangkero) Street. Inside the Escolta Bridge, on the edge of a garbage-ranged sidewalk.

From the bridge to the left on Plaza Sta. Cruz, the historic Escolta Fountain shoots out sprays of water that sparkle in the sun. The fountain stands between the Sta. Cruz Church and Mercy de Pinded, the country's oldest carriage bank where Manuel L. Quezon, Commonwealth President, once worked as a clerk. The short Ronquillo Street links the plaza to Avenida Rizal.

The strip between the dusk dirty-white Capitan Pepe Building and the equally dirty-white Pericolla Building on the Avenida Rizal-Recto Avenue intersection, overlooked by Carriedo Street and Plaza Lawton (Plaza Goiti), was the most popular part of downtown where one could eat, shop and see first-run movies.

The popular cinemas—Ideal, Universal Theaters (now Universal Bank Mall), Lucas Theaters' Avenue and State, and Five—are all gone. Some familiar landmarks like the Aquarius and Avalon buildings remain, but the strip has been transformed into a pedestrian promenade with many alleyways cafés covered with bustling semi-outdoor tapsilogan.

Lookalikes on Ronquillo Street still practice their trade. Stores painted in loud Mediterranean colors of yellow, blue and red, and a barber shop crowd under the LRT Station on the Carriedo-Plaza Lawton junction. This section has quite a distinct character, developed into a kind of open-air concert hall.

The crowds form a half circle to watch and listen to a blind duo of singer and guitarist, nasal dimming the sound of the music coming from an amplifier powered by a car battery. The blind musicians and their nearby audience of commuters have carved out a space under the LRT tracks.

Distracting background

Further dimming the sound of music is a combination of the hard rap heavy rhythmic wall of LRT cars, the ear-splitting crunch of videoke machines and the hoarse voices of ambulant peddlers.

On nearby Ilaraza Street (Urdaneta), Henry Sy's old Shoemart home was the first, the original SM still does brisk business.

Plaza Lawton honors the colorful Manila Mayor Jesenio "Jesenio" Lawton. He stands tall on a pedestal across the old Roman Santos Building capped by a big clock and some sculptures.

The popular Clover Theater that brought the public Cine Jose Nacario to vengeance and put pianist Ping Anquiet, has become the City College of Manila annex.

On the crowded streets leading to Quiapo Church and Plaza Miranda, Sto. Cruz and Quiapo most, hundreds of sidewalk vendors sell a mixture of odors and scents of sweet food, fruit and flowers. The aroma of fishball, smoked fish, pineapple slices, flowers, burning candles, herbs, material catechist and other "necessities" fills the air.

Plaintiff, barely enough on outgrown Carriedo Street, still offer hand-to-hand "pirate" (music sheets).

The sinister from Sta. Cruz Church to Quiapo Church is almost impossible, choked by crowds, stalls and merchandise of all kinds. On Plaza Miranda, holiness revolves. Instant sellers and stores sell wares for the devotion of church goers.

Take a trip to nostalgia and enjoy the walk and the reminiscence of things past and present. It will be good for your soul and your sole.

Luis R. Rivera, president of the Ateneo High School Class 1955 foundation, has been writing articles about books and other districts of Manila.)

A BALLOON vendor in Quiapo

PLAZA Lawton pays tribute to the city's former mayor Arsenio "Jesenio" Lawton.

A MARAÑON bunker of parish newspaper man Patricio Mariano on Basquez Street, beside the Escolta Bridge.

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or GMA Network (Channel 7)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling and hard at work, in hardships, in constructions sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to ensure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Former Aquino-Galman prober, human rights lawyer in Australia

By Jose Carreon
Contributor

THE GREEN LEAVES OF TALL mangoes in the fields of Santa Lucia, north of Capas, Tarlac, provided the only relief from the hot summer sun of that day in 1989.

The Karnival Bureau of Investigation was at police locating the graves of rebels Catherine and Jess Olivo.

In 1985, they were last spotted with unidentified men in a white van.

Tearing breaks from digging, I listened with amazement to the stories of lawyer Priscilla "Digay" Belardo, then a young, idealistic, outspoken NBI agent. She said there was no trace of the Olivos, but the absence of "mounding" in most of the cloth and his being a man with a badge and a Glock 9 mm pistol.

Seventeen years later, my black-dyed contacts dried slowly in the chilly Melbourne weather as I found myself again all one to my old friend and his adventures in the Land Down Under.

The lawyer's last name was now replaced by Birch, long hair that grew past his shoulders, giving him the look of an aging, forgotten rock star. He published blogs under secret pronunciations to remark, "Ha, haven't changed at all!"

Minding his head, he said that his relation called him "Boo," and explained with a chuckle why he dropped the last letter of his name. Then Pilar followed suit a tale of an eye-opening journey adorned with, in my surprise, poetry.

Belardo joined his wife and kids in Australia in 1991. He landed a job as an evening shift university-security officer, allowing him to pursue more education and studies during the day.

Struggle

The early years in Australia were a struggle. He remembered working on Christmas Day and admitted doing something which, on hindsight, was rather silly.

His fiancée's birthday on Christ's birthday so found a security van at he patrolled the all's before campus. Videos of "Rosie" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" kept them amused in the sole locally audio-visual room as he tried to babysit and watch at the same time.

Trouble stirred when the eldest, a girl, disappeared to climax some solid rubbish while he was locked himself in the deep deprivation laboratory of the psychology department.

But the call to public service remained strong. Right after admission to the Australian Bar, he worked in a non-government organization providing free legal services to multi-ethnic communities in the state of Victoria. Joining activist lawyers who championed minority and marginalized groups, he became the first Filipino to work full time as a human rights lawyer and advocate of people with disabilities in Australia.

He successfully represented hundreds of clients who were refused, or dismissed from, employment or excluded by international institutions because of disabilities.

He said, "We have so much work to do. Many still do not understand with physical, intellectual or mental impairments and miss out on the valuable contribution they could make."

Reformist

Though Australia has good antidiscrimination legislation, he believes a lot more can be done. He wrote a number of law reform submissions, including advocating for tougher business expense involving access for the disabled and lifting the disqualification of the blind and deaf from jury service.

He dreams that one day, Philippine activists, left into their and he members would become as just and humane.

Juggling their time between careers and home chores, he and his wife Eleanor raised Christina, Paulo and Pamela, now aged 19, 17 and 14, respectively, in true blue Australian Pinoys. far beyond a migrant's usual culture change from television and The Filipino Channel.

The family, which has room in Cavite, still inspire, have remained close to each. Pinoys despite almost two decades of life abroad. The children attend weekend Philippine language and history classes. While only of the first-hop generation, they learned native fluency like "kuh" and "Pandango ni Sue."

Last year, his daughter's "Godfather de Boxer" conferred in a celebration of the Filipino Dances from the Tagalog's Tinikling to the Visayan's courtship dance.

Digay's cars are easy to spot even from a distance because of their personalized plate numbers: "BOGKO" and "ANGLIW" Boo, he personalized his with he took a leisure because it was his nickname on Phillip Island that intersected with Flinders Street.

Greg Norman's village

Though living literally next to a Greg Norman-designed golf course and many of his friends were swimming, architects in their vicinities turning their views into "golf valleys." Belardo has had no course down to swinging a club.

His love annual hobbies reflect his studying love for his ethnicity. The interests has become the outlet for his poetry (or "schmipts," as he called them) that ranges from comments on racism to reminiscing on love (or politics).

His "Kampana ng Balangiga" is not only a cry for the return of the bells but also a history lesson in rhyme.

"Kalukad ng Panon" chronicles the alarming kidney trade in the Philippines. "Bangsud" was a satire on the Catholic Church's stance on homosexuality. "Bahay na Gawa sa Puso" speaks of intimacy after EDSA reforms. "Tambiano duo si Zhe" condenses optimist observations from a feminist's perspective.

A man's trips

His light verse, "Our love affair with Corned Beef," is an enchanting ode at the OFW's penchant for corned beef and venison dangled for all-in-all luggage limitations, concluding, "It's an This lawyer and his wife, a doctor who works as a nurse in Victoria, raise their three children as true-blue Pinoys; they all love characters and figures in Philippine movies and literature

Filipino to come home without reminiscing."

This sweetie also examines a child at heart. He has an extensive toy collection. Unable to find Pinoy action figures in Australia, he used his rich resources and sheer collection to make Filipino "figures in his own image."

Though he did not support Bernanke for Jr.'s presidential bid, his sweetness were evident during a 12-inch 1:A-size doll of the Bing with he an unmistakable adulterous, leather over a white shirt and 45 Colt 1911 handgun, standing squarely in a mound of bags of his children's toys.

There is also a VCD of "Wrong Gating" which, according to him, is the only movie where FPJ can become black and blue by the end credits.

Belardo's photo Captain Juan Pajota wears a straw hat, complete with detailed guerrilla fighter accessories and 1,000-word backdrop describing his exploits during WWII, including the famous massacre of American prisoners of war in Cabanatuan.

General Eleanor's fokey-Lahwati filing and Captain Gene Boo are projects in progress requiring significant time and patience. He also has plans to work on Leonardo "Pablo" Manalastas and Teodoro Bonifacio. "It's a heroic and villain kind of thing," he said with a loaded grin, "but I won't openly take sides."

'Bahay Kubo'

I guessed correctly. Digay wants his love for Filipino sophistry and interest to school, helping others to find career paths. He lamented, "It is sad, but every time I do a reality check, it is the only practical direction that appears viable." This Peter-expository, who is fantastic on the case, translates the cryptical DPT dilemma in the simple but concisely confined lines of his "Bahay Kubo sa Pangalawang Milenyo":

Ambon ng ngiting bitin at luwi
Kung si dem ay walang ilaw-ilaw
Sa pinamabuhay-saya ng bu ta
Walang ang mali ng kanlaya amo

Mga kaisaang sari-sari
O kung dilgan ay ngiting nakangiti
Pigasti sa hanga ay isang na salat
Walang pera ay pag-ibig ang siyang kapit
Magkaisa si bahay
Magkaisa ang bawat isa
Bagkus ay hindi ang malalim na di-lata
Magsisi man nagsisisi, sali pa rin si sapatos
Magkaisa ng sari-sari, sa isang bahay kubo

Crowning the APO Hiking Society's moment in Australia, Chad only a few hours to catch up with is that in the Inquirer that if was sounding to have "brown-colored stories" from a migrant.

He spoke kindly of the APO, describing them as a national treasure. "APO produced a variety of the best love songs, as well as danced to some a concertmen." Australian band was a refreshing and brave material from a popular and mainstream musical group."

He asked if I remembered the 1995 Sunday show, "Bio na Ito Eh." Naturally I did. He texted quote perplexed me, "So what is the show's connection to Australia?" I replied that it was the supersonic phenomenon in Tarlac?" Sensing it was not a trick question, I begged for the answer.

He said, "Eto, long before Jose Rizzal invented the Da Vinci Code, the APO was already into hidden messages. While our national poet, the Mariano Ponce used the Spanish verb "bailar" that means to cohort, his other Ohmay Squire's drawn an secret wire bend using 1984 ba, dito-na, ka-ni-ka pusoh! (remembering that sounded like the Tagalog "bum that sound"...the last words that Sharo heard before the mad dean were similar to those Rizal heard: Pinagsisi, Ayoono Pinapa!

"So, the APO's program title declared symbolically that Hinhindi Ako Mawawala was really over [Jon Harnett] Overdrill."

I said to myself, I was in the company of a Jesus Edo Global Pinoy!

AT THEIR new house in Victoria in 2005, Belardo with Eleanor and children, from left, Pam, Patricia and Paulo

Put your money in a small farm

By Francisco J. Colayco
Contributor

MANY OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers want to be able to retire somewhere near to the scenes of a small farm in their province. They say that they want to be able to eventually plant some crop or raise some animals and raise passive income from the sale of those crops and animals. They want to know if it is advisable to invest in a small farm. Definitely, it is very difficult to give general advice on whether they should invest in a small farm or not as there are many factors to consider. Consider each of: location, type of crop/animal, management costs, investment required, etc.

Each OFW would have a completely different situation. So hope, I can help by at least guiding them through the thinking process.

Before even considering the option of buying a property in a farm, I think they should ask themselves the following:

● Are they really interested and knowledgeable to undertake farming? Many OFWs have grown used to living in the cities and may not be willing to live elsewhere. We have so many stories of OFWs who end up renovating the farm they bought to a mansion or friend instead of operating a farm/orchard.

● Will they actually get involved in setting up and running the farm themselves? Many may their farm by having their relatives or friends/hire the property for them without actually seeing the property. They also allow a relative or friend to run operations on the farm. That is taking too much risk. It is best to postpone this kind of decision until and unless they have actually visited the property and found it to be suitable for their purpose.

● There are so many options available in farming that makes it mandatory to seek an expert's technical advice. From this technical advice, they can estimate how much they need and/only to invest, and how much more they will need to provide as working capital in order to sustain operations. They will also be advised on the specific technical skills they will be encountering in the specific location they intend to farm. They should go to a specific agency that specializes in the technical advice for the type of farm they want. Check out http://asrenda.gov.ph/. This website gives very good advice in terms of:

● Do they understand the economic aspects of the crops they intend to produce? They should understand the market forces related to the product they want to produce and also will long their product will be sold. They should fully understand the risks they intend to do their farming is there something they can produce that could be immediately sold within the farm itself? This would reduce the need and the cost to bring the product anywhere else.

● Does the proposed location have already access to the buyers of their products? They should have a thorough understanding as to how their product can reach the market. They can have the best product but if there are no roads and/or distribution system, they will not be able to sell.

When they know the answers to the foregoing, they can then prepare their simple Financial study. Again, financial studies will be very different for each OFW as already explained above but.

There are some items that they must pay more attention to when they make their financial studies.

● Cash flows are most important. They should know how much money they have to invest initially and how much they must add every month to maintain the farm until the crops or animals are ready to be sold for cash. Note that selling the "siling" is not considered cash.

● Include the cost of guarding the property.

● I cannot over emphasize the need to investigate well the ROOT of Certificate of Title (TCT) to close and that it really corresponds to the property that was shown to them.

● Understand the cost of taxes, titling the property itself and not only think of growing the crops/animals. There are real estate taxes, municipal taxes etc.

● If there is need to borrow just to buy the property, this must be considered and included in the cost of the project.

● If they want to consider what they will receive if they are able to sell the property, they must remember that they have to pay for the transfer of the TCT (about 2% of selling price) and capital gains tax of 6%.

● If they already own the property but there is need to borrow for the operations of the farm, they must be very careful that they are not over-extending themselves. Usually, the property will be mortgaged to acquire the loan. There are so many cases/pictures of properties being foreclosed because of inability to pay amortization.

● Compare the returns on investment in the farm with other ones to know whether in the Peso Edition's Peso Book. I can only advise that the returns on their investment should, at the very least, be higher than the average inflation rate per annum, which is 3.8% over a long-term period. This is only to make sure that their money does not deteriorate over time.

While earning their own small farm is a beautiful dream, they have to be realistic. We those who are still working abroad and have little control over the operations of their farm, my advice is to focus first on growing their savings and build some income they can easily invest and raise their farming dream. If they still intend to work overseas for another two or three years, they should consider investing their savings in high-yield, low-risk investments that can easily be redeemed or sold. Over the last three years, the top-managed equity mutual funds gave an average annual returns of over 25%. Balanced mutual funds averaged about 20% and fixed income funds had an average of over 10%. Long-distance management of a farm land is not much of a high risk until or into the management. Unfortunate and financial aspects are specifically addressed and resolved.

OUT OF LEBANON

This chef is cooking up something new

By Mira L. Morales

RICHARD MONTEVERDE is the Philippines once he came back from Lebanon.

For one, John Paul Bautista who lived and worked in Lebanon for eight years is still in awe of the weather back home.

"The climate in Lebanon is very different from here. Despite the heat of the sun there, like six to seven, I'm told. "Here, the coldest change of the weather would make you shiver."

It's been five to six months since the Bautista, one of about 5,000 overseas Filipino workers who returned from Lebanon when the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah erupted last month. The Pangasinan native truly finds it hard to adjust to the weather and the life time he lost.

"I've just been here for two weeks yet I find it tough to adjust because I'm still not used to living idle," he said.

Bautista, 35, had been working as a waiter and chef in Lebanon for eight years before the fighting in Lebanon erupted. On Sundays, he serves for St. Agnesia Adventista, C.M. as his activities. He arrived in the country on July 19 on board the flight chartered by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

"At first, I really wanted to stay there," he said. "But further thought told me that if I was sure that I have a job to go to when I go there, I should go there Lebanon."

Traumatized

Bautista confided that the environment, called Le Santa Ria, was preparing for vacation before the conflict started. At that time, the Lebanese summer had just begun, paving the way for local and foreign tourists to their resorts. However, the fighting took off on July 13, driving tourists away, and leaving workers either jobless or traumatized.

"When the fighting continued, the owner of the restaurant where I was working suddenly left," he said. "He did not know what to do. My companions and I, together with the other Filipino waitresses, decided to leave the restaurant and rent suite in the country."

When the owner, a Lebanese-French, disappeared, he left the restaurant's crew members to be did not give his crew's salary for the month. The money was brought their Philippine passports with him, Bautista said.

"Traveling out of Beirut, we only had the travel documents issued by the Philippine Embassy as a proof of our identity," he said. "When I arrived here, I was able to bring only $300."

The incident has left a deep mark on Bautista's mind.

"As much as possible, I would not like working for an Arab employer again," he said. "I know it's wrong to generalize but I feel that if I go back there, my employer would get back at me because I left."

Despite his bad experience in Lebanon, Bautista still plans on working overseas.

"If I work here, I wouldn't earn like what I used to get in Lebanon," he said. "Maybe my employer may be good but I really fancy my native, as doing house-maid."

But other Filipino workers don't have the same view. In fact, some of the domestic helpers who evacuated the strife-torn country revealed that some employers didn't give them the salary stipulated in the contract.

"It's true. Some domestic helpers sign a $200 contract here only to get paid $150 when they don't working in Lebanon," he said. "It has been a recurring problem and the embassy here couldn't find a solution to that problem."

A job is waiting

Bautista said his sister promised to get him a job as a chef in one of the company's luxury hotels. He lives with the sister, who works for a shipping company, in Cavite for the time being.

"My sister called me up around June, offering a job as chef for their company's luxury ship," he said. "She asked me if I could go home by that time for an interview. I told her that it's impossible for my employer to allow me to go home again because I just had my vacation in March."

When the fighting started, Bautista decided to accept his sister's offer. He left Lebanon thinking that he would easily get a new job.

"I read sadly bag ng mga istorya, sabing iba' sabays sha ewalat ang mga ito," he said. "But she told me to apply for a job in the Philippines rather than to get employed."

His sister even offered him a job at a cargo ship for the same company as a chef. He declined his offer.

"It's handy in a cargo ship similar if you work in a restaurant or a cruise ship," he said. "Besides, if the cargo ship's crew doesn't like the taste of the food I prepare for them, they might throw me off the ship."

Bautista's family has been supportive of him when they left him with Manila behind. His other siblings, also are based in the US, sent him money for the processing of his papers and other expenses.

Aside from learning his words in Lebanese, Bautista had to learn his wife Monika, behind. She works as a domestic helper who doubles as a caregiver for her aged Lebanese-Canadian employers. She could not expect to be in 2007, he said.

"I told him that she should stay there until I get a job," he told. Besides, my employer promised to take her to Paris with them when they went next."

Somewhat somewhat repentant, Monika's employers decided to move to Lebanon.

His wife couldn't send money to him because banks there were closed. He told his wife that she should keep the money because things there were unstable.

"I told her that I'll manage as no one here," he said. "I just have to make the most out of the money I have from my siblings."

Where's gov't help?

Bautista lamented the fact that the government help wasn't enough for the OFW evacuees. Aside from the repatriation, the government provided to help OFWs get back on their feet.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion had said the evacuees would be entitled to livelihood and entrepreneurial assistance, skills training and job search for local employment.

Bautista said he still busy looking for a job overseas. Unfortunately, his self-pleasure got stretched last week, losing his contract to post Overseas Filipinos.

"I met a domestic helper who lives in Cavite. But, has a brother who works as a captain in a foreign ship," he said. "I gave her my number because she said she'll try to get me a job."

Love, yen, and tears in the land of cherry blossoms

By Joric G. Caceres
Contributor

JAPAN, LAND OF THE RISING SUN, is one of the favorite destinations of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), especially Filipino women.

Aside from rich cultural heritage, this country's economic stability attracts Filipinos. Finally, an entirely Filipino women who work in Japan are called "Japayuki."

Many random-day Pinays who go to Japan usually work as cocktail waitress, domestic helpers, factory workers, nurses, and singers, dancers or hostesses.

Some of these Filipino women end up marrying Japanese.

The Japanese interviewed OFWs from different parts of the country to find out why they chose to go to Japan.

This is what we found out:

Easy money

"Money is so easy to earn in Japan, especially when you're handsome/pretty. You would be the reason why Filipino women, who usually dislike Arabs, schooling, dream of working there," said Aileen Grace Dayao, 21, a dancer in Beachfront Club, Shizuoka City, Japan.

"When I worked there last year, I easily earned enough money for my siblings."

She added that the Japanese "loved to be entertained (since) their lives revolved around work, so (we) really work hard."

And if she would prefer to marry a Japan, she said, "I will send to marry a Pinoy. I cannot imagine myself marrying a Japan."

At present, Dayao is preparing to leave again for Japan. Her mother completed every one and a half years.

The Japanese also discovered interesting stories from OFWs about Filipino husbands.

"I know, deep-to-my heart, that I love my Japanese husband and I can find that he loves me, too," says Maribeth Marin, 32, who worked in Japan as an entertainer in Kagoya, Japan.

She is married to Emilano S. Ella, 28, a shipbuilder in Bontoc Bay, and they have an 8-month-old daughter. At present, Maribeth has a long-distance relationship with Ella.

"I am confident he will not leave me. He promised he would support our daughter. But (when) he's gone, (or when) he brings (supporting) us, I will be ready (waiting) a permanent in (his) mind," she says.

Jeanette Gosling, 17, talks fondly of his Japanese stepfather, Daniel Hara. Jeanette says it was painful, even dreadful, when his mother Ruby 36, remarried. He found it hard to adjust at first. But him, his father, who died of a heart attack in 1992, would forever remain his dad.

"It was really difficult at first (when my mother went to Japan in 2000 to work there. I never thought she would remarry and go to Japan. I tried hard (really) (struggling) to like (them) just to know my mom's Japanese husband. I wanted to accept him as the second dad," he says.

Jeanette and his mother were married in March to Tomotsuka Claudi, in Makino, Shizuoka. His stepfather remains in the Philippines every three months.

"He is a good provider. He's like a real father to me. He takes care of my mother and I feel her. He treats us among grow of all the material things are want, and spends special occasions with us. I hope he will not change," Jeanette says.

Sad stories

But not all stories have happy endings. Love Gonzales, 38, resided in Akita, Japan for only one month in 1995. Her relatives mean a good life by marrying a Japanese was a miserable experience.

She says she is an initially excited about her relationship with Mitsuo Saito. He gave her expensive jewelry and expensive clothes. "He seems kind and generous when he was introduced to me by my colleagues who were also entertainers in Japan. He (Mitsuo) was a real gentleman. That's why I was attracted to him and decided to marry him. He even accepted and adopted my daughter. I really felt he loved me. But I was wrong."

The relationship started to only turn sour. "His attitude changed. He made me sweep the floor of his house in front of his friends. He would suddenly get angry and shout at me. I was left in Japan with a wounded heart."

Her heartbreaking experience made her realize that one should not fall for a stranger. She adds, "Always must be very careful in choosing a partner, especially when he is a foreigner."

Practical reasons

Michael Tan, a columnist of the Inquirer, believes Japanese marry Japanese for very practical reasons.

"I haven't come across any (Japanese) who married (Filipinas) because they (must) love because practical reasons. Japayuki have a name for the good life. They know the only way they can stay in Japan is to marry a citizen. It's almost impossible (for) a (non-Japanese) to become a citizen except through marriage," he says.

Atty. J. Pinoy feel Japanese more attractive and special. Tan thinks there is no special attraction involved. "No doubt, some Filipinas remain well married, but, aside from practical reasons. But it's not because of any special appeal."

Japanese men, he says, sometimes find it difficult to marry a contemporaneous because their parents are over scheduling against the traditional feudal patriarchal attitudes.

Hierarchy of needs

"So Japanese men look to Filipinas (and Thai women), hoping to get a wife who is more submissive. But they often realize that a Pinay isn't exactly the demure, timid type, as some men might read the divorce. But, by then, the Pinay would have gotten a citizenship and could stay in Japan."

Tan says Japanese men are better providers than Filipinos, not only in terms of financial capabilities but also in terms of conscientiousness.

"It's part of the patriarchal system. A man will slave away for his family, even the boss overwork (karoshi). (Consensus) I'm afraid I must say the same thing about Filipino men ... I've seen numerous unfaithful supporting their husbands," he says.

Dr. Bernardo L. Bautista, dean of the Graduate School of Philosophy in San Beda College, says Pinays who marry Japanese can be better understood by looking at Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs."

"Maslow categorizes those needs into five. The first one, and (the most powerful), is the physiological (or biological) needs. This is the need for survival or self-preservation. This is why (most) men among animals where various ways of preserving one's life can easily be seen in terms of various elaborate mechanisms. In the case of the Filipina, and most probably, the Japanese

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Guaso

Israel commando raid shakes ceasefire

BAALBEK, LEBANON—THE FRAGILE CEASEFIRE in Lebanon was dealt a blow Saturday when Israeli commandos clashed with Hezbollah fighters after raiding a village, as French troops were set to arrive by sea to reinforce UN peacekeepers.

A Lebanese military official said that Israeli helicopters, under the cover of smoke made by warplanes, landed two Humvee vehicles in the mountainous region of Hiya, about 10 km east of Baalbek, a Hezbollah stronghold.

Commandos then drove eastward to the nearby village of Doueir where they clashed with Hezbollah guerrillas, he said.

The incident marks the first major clash between the two sides since the ceasefire took effect on Monday.

There were exchanges of fire earlier this week that left at least four Hezbollah fighters dead.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which governs the ceasefire, called for a "full cessation of hostilities [start] upon, in particular, the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks and the immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive military operations." It also called for Israeli troops to withdraw from south Lebanon in tandem with deployment of Lebanese troops and a beefed-up UN peacekeeping force to the area.

The United Nations was urging European countries Friday to provide troops to the peacekeeping force, as the Beirut government moved ahead with its deployment, began a day earlier.

"It's very important that Europe now steps forward," Deputy UN Secretary General Mark Malloch Brown said Friday. "The next few days are going to be very challenging to make sure that we meet this commitment to 3,000 troops, or 7,000 troops on the ground in 10 days from now." He said that while Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Nepal had all offered troops as part of the expanded UN force to help shore up the tenuous ceasefire, there was a need to deploy a battle-ready European-led force that would be acceptable to both Lebanon and Israel.

"We said before that a European-Muslim force [would be preferable] because of both groups' interest in this region. They bring a balance, you scrutinize them as legitimate, that satisfies both sides in this conflict," Malloch Brown said. Israel has made clear it would not accept countries with which it has no diplomatic relations—such as Muslim-majority Malaysia and Indonesia.

The scope of the force and its rules of engagement were believed to be the major stumbling blocks for European nations, but Malloch Brown said countries were had left details and should be ready to decide on a role.

"Today they're getting the full rules of engagement and COHOD [the concept of operations]," he said, adding "Now the ball is in their court." France has agreed to contribute some 200 troops, the short of the major commitments that many had foreseen for the former colonial power in Lebanon.

An advance unit of an engineering battalion was due to arrive by sea on Sunday, near the Israeli border, on Saturday morning, a French military official told AFP.

US President George W. Bush said he hoped France would reconsider its decision and dispatch more troops, noting that "there have been different signals coming from Paris." Earlier, a British newspaper accused France of failing to honor an unspoken deal to provide some 3,000 soldiers for small Lebanon to form the backbone of the UN force and encourage others to contribute.

The Israeli military source in an editorial that "France seems to help them as he never" by being willing to contribute only 200 troops.

In China, the cabinet gave its approval in principle to the deployment of Indian troops. But Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declined to give any firm commitment on numbers saying the matter had "not yet been examined." Similar talks, several countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Turkey have expressed willingness to contribute troops. Pakistan and Bulgaria have pledged to consider the matter, while Germany ruled out sending ground forces.

The 26-year-old UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the entire troops will be charged with policing the Buffalo transfer between Hezbollah and Israel until the full 15,000 peacekeepers stipulated by the Security Council resolution can be found and deployed.

UNIFIL is working to add 2,000 troops to its existing 2,000-strong contingent within 30 days, up to 7,000 troops to its existing 2,000-strong contingent within 30 days, up to 15,000 troops to its existing 2,000-strong contingent within 30 days, up to 15,000 troops to its existing 2,000-strong contingent within 30 days, up to 15

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Sunday SPORTS
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Artists' Fair
August 27, Sunday
The Loft at Rockwell

LITHUANIA'S Rubavicius Jovydas dunks against Turkey during their first round match at the world basketball championships in Hamamatsu, central Japan. Story on A28 AFP/FILE

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Bacolod rips US-East, gains World tilt finals

KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON — TOUGHENED by back-to-back semifinal setbacks the last two years, the Philippines' Education Training Center School of Bacolod City finally got over the hump yesterday with an inspiring 5-3 win over US-East/Del Mesquite to reach the Junior League Softball (15-16) World Series finals in Kirkland, Washington.

Pitcher Veronica Bellosa, a member of the ETCS squad that bowed out in the semis of the past two Little League (13-12) World Series, struck out seven batters in a six-relief seven-inning job, while Nerissa Benjamin came through with four RBIs, two each in the third and fifth frames, to power the Bacolodnon to the finals in their very first try in the Junior League category.

With the triumph, ETCS — the only non-American team in the final four — moved on the brink of duplicating Bagiuio Village National High School's 2003 victory to savor Junior League division that stands as the country's first and only World Series title.

But the odds are stacked against the Asia-Pacific champions when they meet reigning nine-US-South for the title at 9 a.m. Saturday (9 p.m. in Manila).

The Filipino already lost to the US-South squad, represented by dominic from Naples, Florida, in their first meeting in Pool Seattle, 2-0. US-South stayed undefeated in four games, keeping the championship hardware the Filipinos have displayed since Needville, Texas of US Southwest, 4-0.

Dina Bonfiz, who coaches the ETCS squad with Nilo Benjamin and Lupiciun Cabiso, said the Filipino midfielder played on a different level against US-East, which came into yesterday's game with an immaculate 6-0 record that included a victory against powerhouse US-Southwest.

"They really owned their games a notch higher than they surprised even the coaching staff," Bonfiz told the tweens in a telephone interview.

Bonfiz said they were also overwhelmed by the support of the Filipino community in Kirkland. "The girls' morale are very high. We feel the warm the home team here," she added.

But Bonfiz said they are not taking any chances against US-South. "Pero (US-South) have the nice advantage but the girls learned a lot of lessons in their previous fans," she said. Cedelf P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas

Team Manila lands 5th in Kalamazoo Big League

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN — TEAM Manila of the Philippines and Asia Pacific swept its last two games Friday (Saturday in Manila) to give the country its third International Trophy in the Big League Softball (16-18) World Series here.

The Filipinas subdued Hallsville of Texas, 4-2, behind the combined four-hit effort by lefty Pelkowlanda Custodio and Elsa Delagente and then came back late in the afternoon to blank Windsor of Ontario, Canada, 1-0, to settle for fifth place overall.

Returning Chai Lorelie Hickson pitched a one-hit five-inning start and Custodio worked on a tie-hit, seven-three-inning relief as the girls of head coach Filomeno "Boy" Cordovez Jr. ended up with an even 4-4 card in the eight-team field.

Meanwhile, US East Zone champion Connecticut took the measure of host team Michigan, 1-0, to prevent an all-Michigan finals.

Connecticut, Michigan and host city Kalamazoo actually wound up in a tie for first after the nine-round elimination at 7-2. Connecticut and Kalamazoo, however, came up with the better quotient to the tiebreaker to forge their championship duel.

Michigan finally wound up third.

Team Manila's fifth place finish was two notches lower than the third place finishes of the RP teams at 2000 and 2005.

"Well, luck was not with us at the start of the tournament," said Cordovez. "We could have been in the finals had we not lost at least three games that ended up close. A fifth place finish is nothing to be ashamed of. Remember all the nine teams here represent the best in their countries and regions."

Against Canada, Manila keyed off its attack with three hits in the bottom of the first, including a single by Delagente that drove in lead-off batter Darla Mae Cabagnaros, who had earlier walked.

Against Texas, the Filipinas came up with a three-hit, two-run salvo in the first inning carrying first base girl Alexandra Zuluaga, Jessel Taladtad, Delagente and shortstop Marchie Cabrera.

Zuluaga, one of two players on loan from ILAM (International Little League Association of Manila), singled to first base girl Jessel Taladtad to break the ice for the Filipinas, while Recarion guided Delagente home with another base hit.

Tagaytay, Surigao Sur, Manila rout chess foes

KUALA LUMPUR—TAGAYTAY CITY blanked Kidapawan City, 4-0, yesterday to open its title retention bid in the Mendiko Chess Team Championship on a high note even as other Philippine teams also powered marching victories here.

But Igpit del Sur and Manila also shut out their opponents while Filamy Marketing and Caraga City posted 3.5-0.5 victories to complete the bright day for Filipino chessers.

Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Sebastian Mariano II started the onslaught of Tagaytay of Mayor Bunsled Tolentino by crowning Ilora Evans Abakbar and Jasandawi Ebe Mad, respectively. National Master Ronald Dayupan and Erman Dwiyanto completed the romp by downing their rivals in boards 3 and 4.

Surigao del Sur, being backed by Sen. Pimpero "Bam" Pichay, also the National Chess Federation of the Philippines president, routed Malaysia's MTBC on victories by international Masters Dioso Dimabiling and Yves Sarenda, David Elera and Butch Villaviza.

Manila, sent here by Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza drew wins from Gr. Jessy Mayor, Anthony Makinano, Elven Sagunsabal and Jun Sabanal to doing basic 4-0 Singapore.

Grandmaster Mark Paragua's Pilway Marketing settled for a 3.5-0.5 victory over Myanmar [illegible] and to dial Caraga of nine-time national champion Darwin Layla, who also rested for a draw by Ismail Ahmad of Selangor's Senior Team.

Tagaytay, under team captain Willie Abalos, is slated to face Puerto 9GEE, who with 4 points) in round 2.

The Philippine delegation, sent here by the NCFP is being led by NCFP vice president lawyer Romeo Inumerable.

JOEY ANTONIO

JERVY Cruz of UST gets his face framed by the ball, during their match against National University yesterday.

Tigers revive bid; Eagles seek No. 8

By Jeanine W. Pope

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS TIGERS REVIVED THEIR SPUTTERing campaign in the UAAP men's basketball tournament with a resurgent 72-67 win over the National Bulldogs at the Philsports Arena.

Drawing a much-needed lift from their bench, the Tigers rediscovered their scorching flair in the second half with Clarence Taylor pacing in six of his 14 points in the last five minutes to lift the Tigers to a 72-60 advantage from a 55-58 standoff.

"It's a good thing he stepped up after eight games," said UST coach Boots Rosario of the lanky 6-foot-5 Taylor, "I told him that he just can't be pressuring on [super]."

All told, the Tigers' reserves outscored the Bulldogs' bench, 41-16.

Also back in his element, rookie standout Jerry Cruz finished with 10 points and 13 rebounds.

After cooling their four-game tumble, the Tigers joined the Ateneo Eagles who beat the Bulldogs in a thrilling clinch for fourth place at 7-7.

"What we're praying for right now is for everyone to stay healthy," added Rosario, who fears have missing the services of several key players in recent games due to various illnesses.

The Tigers cannot change ground after the break. From a 72-62 deficit, the Tigers shot nine unanswered points to close in at 41-42.

Back-to-back baskets by Cruz gave the Tigers their first lead since the first period, 45-44, with 4:37 minutes left in the third quarter.

Ateneo Eagles

Meanwhile, the Ateneo Eagles will try to clinch the first Final Four berth against the sinking University of the Philippines Maroons at 2 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Led by JC Intal, the undefeated Eagles will try to match the eight-game winning streak the 2002 team set during its championship run.

But the Eagles have to do without 2005 Rookie of the Year Ateneo, who will be sidelined for several weeks due to dengue.

Coach Norman Black admits that the Eagles, who just came off another 68-65 escape over the Adamson Falcons, are bent on keeping the top spot.

"In the beginning, we wanted to finish in the top two, but we eventually our goals a bit after a good start," said Black. "Right now, we're in fourth standing. That's the goal right now, not really to think about what needs to win one. We can't afford [to] coming up. A look into the future, we don't want to be stuck with three or OT. It's a match up in the Final four."

Semifinal format

In the semifinal format, the top-ranked team will face the fourth seed enjoying a twice-to-beat advantage.

The University of the East Warriors and the Far Eastern U Tamaraws, the two teams likely pegged as likely threats, will collide at 4 p.m.

Occupying the second spot at 9-5, the Warriors will try to halt the four-game campaign of the defending champion Tamaraws.

UE coach Dindo Pumaren said he may have settled back into their early 9-4 slump which included a 69-58 overtime loss to the Warriors in the first round.

In junior action, the unbeaten shown fought and the second-running fifth Soby Tamaraws secured semifinal spots after regaining their respective foes.

The Eaglets cruised to their ninth straight win with a lopsided 109-93 triumph over the winless National U Bullpups while the Baby Tamaraws clamped the UE Papers, 90-71, for an 8-1 card.

Earlier, the UST Tiger Cubs nipped the Adamson Falcons with a 86-85 decision.

Box scores

TIGERS (72)
Taylor 14, Cruz 10, Ilagan 9, Ramos 8, Ibañez 7, Ilagan 6, Ibañez 5, Ramos 3, Ibañez 2, Ramos 2, Ibañez 1, Ramos 1, Ibañez 0, Ramos 0

BULLDOGS (67)
Ibañez 16, Ramos 15, Ilagan 14, Ramos 12, Ibañez 10, Ramos 9, Ibañez 8, Ramos 7, Ibañez 6, Ramos 5, Ibañez 4, Ramos 3, Ibañez 2, Ramos 1, Ibañez 0, Ramos 0

Quarter Score Line

TIGERS—Ramos 20, Taylor 14, Ilagan 12, Ramos 10, Ibañez 8, Ramos 7, Ibañez 6, Ramos 5, Ibañez 4, Ramos 3, Ibañez 2, Ramos 1, Ibañez 0, Ramos 0

BULLDOGS—Ramos 16, Ibañez 15, Ramos 14, Ramos 12, Ibañez 10, Ramos 9, Ibañez 8, Ramos 7, Ibañez 6, Ramos 5, Ibañez 4, Ramos 3, Ibañez 2, Ramos 1, Ibañez 0, Ramos 0

Quarter Score Line

ATENEO (109)
Ibañez 20, Ramos 18, Ilagan 16, Ramos 14, Ibañez 12, Ramos 10, Ibañez 8, Ramos 7, Ibañez 6, Ramos 5, Ibañez 4, Ramos 3, Ibañez 2, Ramos 1, Ibañez 0, Ramos 0

Quarter Score Line

UP (93)
Ramos 20, Ibañez 18, Ramos 16, Ramos 14, Ibañez 12, Ramos 10, Ibañez 8, Ramos 7, Ibañez 6, Ramos 5, Ibañez 4, Ramos 3, Ibañez 2, Ramos 1, Ibañez 0, Ramos 0

Quarter Score Line

JERVY Cruz of UST gets his face framed by the ball, during their match against National University yesterday.

Viray, Bauzon shine to keep their teams afloat in NCAA

THREE EXPLOITS THAT WILL BE TOO LATE, but San Sebastian's Jim Viray and Perpetual's Phil Bauzon are doing their best to keep their respective teams afloat in the

Phils their schools dangling dangerously off the Final Four fringes, Viray and Bauzon displayed never-say-die spirit in leading the embattled squads to fresh victories last week.

For the hosts, they garnered the nod of the media to become the joint Players of the Week of the NCAA men's basketball.

Viray's claim to the plum was his 12-point performance that enabled San Sebastian to hurdle rough-fighting St. Benilde 100-83. The spike-haired swingman also added eight rebounds in his stats as the Stags registered their fourth win in five outings.

"We can always count on Jim at crunch time," said SSC rookie coach Raymond Mercurio. "His energy in the court always always calls off to his teammates, and he's setting a good example being one of the veterans of the team.

On the other hand, Rocky guard Bauzon was instrumental in Perpetual's 87-86 triumph over Jose Rizal after last Friday.

"Bauzon really gave his best in that game against JRU. He made several big shots, and although he missed two crucial free throws, we can't deny his determination to win," said Perpetual Help coach Rat Cristobal.

Bauzon hit 19 points in that game and grabbed seven rebounds. But his biggest contribution proved to be that big swipe off the hands of JRU rookie John Villson with 11 seconds remaining.

The tale of two heroes, however, could last only until Mapua gets into action on Wednesday, The Cardinals can overall completion by winning just one of the three remaining games and completing the Final Four cut will only qualifiers San Beda, Lyceum and Philippine Christian.

Mon Anthony Reyes

WINNER: Brent Hayden of Canada celebrates after winning the men's 100m freestyle final during the Pan Pacific 2016 swimming championships in Victoria, British Columbia, Friday.

GM Torre leads Cordillera bets

THE 2016 CORDILLERA OPEN CHESS CHAMpionships gets underway today at the Baguio Golf and Country Club in Baguio City.

Grandmaster Oliver Dominic Torre and homegrown master Jayson Gonzales will lead crack players who will showcase their talents in the National Chess Federation of the Philippines-sanctioned event.

Hosted by former Benguet Gov. and NCFP director Raul "Rocky" Molintas in cooperation with Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Governor Jim Bunlar "Bar" Bulwayan and NCFP executive director lawyer Sonny Fortaez, the nine-round Swiss system tournament offers a total pot of P130,000 to the winners.

The champion receives P40,000 and the second, third, fourth and fifth players pocket P25,000, P12,000, P10,000 and P7,000, respectively.

Category prizes will also be awarded to the top lady, top junior, top senior, top lady and top local players. Abi Marbon demonstrates

STRONGEST FILIPINA: Lily Pizarro (right) is congratulated by Atlas Tanchiong of Sports Nutrition International (SNI). Whey Protein for setting a concord at the 2016 Asian Masters Power-lifting competition held recently in Taiwan, South Korea. Carrying the national colors and representing the SNI Whey Protein-Zuri Gym team, Pizarro registered 142 lbs in the 90 kg class. Pizarro also holds the Philippine powerlifting records in bench press (114 lbs) and dead-lift (210 lbs).

Imported Stakes 5th leg today at SLLP

By Mayang R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—AN IMPRESSIVE CAST of versatile runners led by Shahin and Loanne de see action today in the fifth leg of the 2016 Imported Stakes Series at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Lower-tier Lady, a hard-finishing bay mare owned by the traditionally formidable Ojei Enterprises stables, is also lanced to the 1,750-meter race like coupled entries Supersonic and Bear Me.

Jeffrey Dante Sandler Shahin, a vaunted mayen, while Only Dibona partners Loanne de, a four-year-old bay mare who's finished in the second to Miss Aaron last week in the Santa Ana.

At stake is a total of P600,000 and glory in the championship race where winners of the first four legs—Golden Link, Sellie Belle, Ever Mine Now and La Tessine—and their runners-up meet.

Supposed, one of the dominant thorses Supersonic stables, sent a leg last year and has already qualified for the grand race. And the five-year-old will undoubtedly use this race to prime up for the big one under Louie D. Ombos.

Three-year-old gray filly How Me, the second Imported starter, will race.

Ronald Baldevarona as a skipper, while Iron Heart (BC Fernandez) and Don't Tell (Elie S.V. Enterprises) complete the field of five.

The 5:25 p.m. starting time will be strictly followed. It was a directive of the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission that started earlier in the week which has resulted in a solid increase in sales.

Lucanio and Mahlia finished a close 2-3 in La Tessine in the fourth leg three to one month ago and Lucanio will be coming off a string of impressive eco-winning performances.

Though the distance today suits the hard-finishing Kinkin more, Lucanio's 1 minute and 34.4 seconds over 1,500 meters is being topped by a nose by Tres Amor seems solid enough for this race.

RACING

BY TIP SHEET

Manalo tows Sambajon in New York tilt

FILIPINOS MARLON MANALO AND AMITON Sambajon stunned their respective opponents to remain in the winners brackets of the $25,000 Turning Stone Classic 9-ball tournament at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, New York.

After blanking Nathan Gunz, 9-0, in the opening round, Manalo took the scalp of Japanese-American Mike Yamauchi, 9-1.

The 33-year-old Mandaluyong ace Manalo, playing under the auspices of his billiards patron Antonio "Paulo" Pesyat and BSCP president Fernando "Fenet" Fuguelo, will face Hunter Swanson in the next round. Pittsburgh bet Steve Murphy, 9-3, and Neal Dryden, 9-4, respectively.

The 40-year-old Sambajon from Muntinlupa City, on the other hand, defeated Kevin Macklem, Quincon, zipped Sean Morgan, 9-4, and Jerry Hicks, 9-7, in that order.

Sambajon will face Tony Ballerina, who subdued Keith Schneiderman, 9-6, and Aaron Markus 9-6.

Michan next awaits Filipino Ramon "Simeon Manching" Mendoza of Murphy Quezon City, to the latter's bracket after a 9-7 win in the first round. Mendoza aims to bounce back in tomorrow's regular schedule/action.

Unbeknighted American James Roberts posted a 9-7 upset win against former World Pool champion Ralf Souquet of Germany in the second round.

Jeanette Lee and five-time world champion Johnny Archer also posted convincing victories over Hanni Wibke, 9-6, and Chanoir Chris, 9-1. — Marlon Bernardino

Cagayan de Oro hosts team chess

THE CITY OF CHAMPIONS DE ORO IN MISAMIS Oriental will host the 2006 National Interprovince Chess Team Championship and the 2006 National Inter-City Chess Team Championship at the Metro Mall inside the Limketkai Mall. The twin tournament, jointly sponsored by National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Pros" Pichay Jr. and the provincial government of Misamis Oriental, headed by Governor Mariano, official in a whopping total cash prize of P500,000.

"We'd like to thank Governor Mariano and the people of Misamis Oriental for hosting this tournament," said Pichay. "This is another proof that there is alive and well, everywhere in the country and we'd like to rejoin all the provinces to pursue in this undertaking."

RISING star Jeff "Boss" de Luna aims to get back to Asia Pagalanan

Valle shoots down Alcano, gains finals

By Marang R. Castillo

FLAUNTING COMPLETE TABLE CONTROL DESPITE BEING UNLUCKY ON the breaks, Ray Randy Valle dished out a performance that steals among the best in his career.

Despite six dry breaks, Valle put himself in the title match of the 2006 SMART National Pool championship after raking out a disgusted Jeremie Alcano, 11-5, in the crossover phase at the Rizal Sports Stadium.

The 32-year-old Davao native restrained unbeaten after an impressive fifteen up to what many thought was already a magical victory in the winners bracket semifinal stage Friday night.

"I think I just had bad luck on my side," Valle said in Filipino. "But everything went my way but I still found ways to win."

A multiple gold medal winner in the Southeast Asian Games since 1995, Valle took an early 1-0 lead despite failing to get a ball shoot in three breaks.

Valle won (Amount) only in 8-3, when Alcano, who got the lie by handling out Nolando Garcia, won two straight frames.

Valle clashes with either top-seeded Alex Pagulayan or Johnny de Luna, the tournament's giant killer, Pagulayan and De Luna were still slugging it out in the other semifinal at presstime.

The finals, where the winner goes home with P1 million and the runner-up settles for P500,000, will be played tomorrow night 7 p.m.

Dina Olivas fairly tale rookie came to a halt last Friday night, when Alcano took out qualifier Garcia, 9-8, to earn his place in the semi-table opposite the 1998 Asian Games hero Valle.

Garcia got to the ball with a three-rack lead before Alcano, the lanky native of Lafayette, Laguna, who formerly logged a protest on the ball break after going down to Pagulayan, got some back-to-back-to-back games.

The ball break, which Valle used to destroy Gerson Cervallo, 9-1, also Friday night, created quite a stir after the semi-final matches in the winners bracket when organizers outlawed it in the rest of the event's Final Four.

Cervallo topped Garcia, 9-6, in an impromptu playoff for the fourth outright slot in the World Pool Championship on Nov. 4-12 here in Manila.

Bata, Django battle Malta in World Cup

FILIPINO BILLIARDS MASTER EFREN "BATA" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante take on Malta's Tony Drago and Alex Borg as the start of World Cup of Pool (9-ball) Aug. 22 at the The Newport Center, Newport, South Wales.

"It's been a long time since Efren and I have got played 'rounds doubles and I think they are in for a good fight since Drago and Borg are no pushovers," said billiards patron Antonio "Paltik" Pesyat.

"Let's gear for their success," said billiards and bowling Congress of the Philippines president Jesus Garcia Jr. Pesyat.

A total of 32 countries represented by its top two players are entered with the Filipino pair rated among the favorites.

The matches will be played on a straight knockout basis—five rounds of matches on one TV table. All matches are watch double-elimination format.

The 48-year-old Drago from Valletta, Malta, was the last international Open and reached the quarterfinals of the 2006 World Pool Masters. He won the World Pool Masters in 2003 and was a semifinalist in the 2003 World Pool Championships.

A list of the matches: The 37-year-old Borg from Mellieha, Malta, is a member specialist.

A total pot of $200,000 is at stake with the champion's share getting $60,000.

Europe will be represented by Croatia, Czech Republic, England 4, England B, Finland, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Slovakia, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and Wales.

Other Asian teams entered are India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. — Marlon Bernardino

Asean football tickets

WITH STILL TWO MONTHS TO GO BEFORE kick-off, "wait demand for the Qualifying Round of the Asean Cup in Bacolod City is very high," according to PFF president Johnny Romualdez.

Romualdez credits this to the fact that the team fared well in the last SEA Games as well as the hangover brought about by the recent World Cup. Romualdez is confident that the Philippines can top their Qualifying Round and Semifinal matches when they meet Singapore in January 2007 in Thailand and Singapore.

The PFF office has been receiving calls for ticket since even a month now with many Metro Manilans hoping to book their seats this early at the 23,000-seater Panaad Stadium in Bacolod City.

PARTICIPANTS in the Hole 1 division of the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament before teeing off at Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City. From left: Philip Yao and Bobby de Ocampo of Greenhills I and Vale Verde 1/1's Danilo Rebaza and Jeep Ala.

WGAP stages Luzvimin golf in Cebu Aug. 23-25

MANILA SOUTHWOODS (WGAP) will be visited by dominators of the Diamond division when the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) in association with the Cebu Golf & Country Club-Golfer Chapter stage the 2006 Luzvimin Golf Invitational Tournament on Aug. 23-25 at the Cebu Country Club course.

The Luzvimin is a 54-hole Stableford's Medium Scoring) team competition among the ladies chapter's of various golf clubs in the Philippines. Each team is made up of a minimum of four and a maximum of six players. The teams are classified in to three divisions: Diamond, Ruby and Pearl divisions based on the average handicap of the team's four lowest handicappers.

Since on its 14th year, the Luzvimin was conceived to bring together the ladies chapters from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao in a friendly competition.

After 15 teams joined the first two years, participation has grown and is now limited to 25 teams.

Already signified their intention to take are Apostolic, alabang, Bacolod, Bacolod, Baguio, Cebu Country Club, Child'Epico, Del Monte, Forest Hills, Iloilo, Jolo Bay, Manila Golf, Negros, Pamplona, Phil. Navy, Riviera, Southwoods, Sta. Elena, Valenzuela, Villamor, Zamboanga and new entry Baguio Highlands.

SPORTSWATCH

Fisforama features 2 fights

FISFORAMA FEATURES TWO ATTRACTIONS THIS WEEK BETWEEN FEATHER weights Rene Mangubat and Genesis Mebalot in the four-round curtain-raiser and super featherweights Antonio Apit against Jason Melo in the six-round main event. Both matches slated Saturday (Aug. 26) at the Philippine Sports Commission Complex in Pasig City. Fisforama Promotions director Dorothy Fisher announced that Mangubat, 17-4-1 with 11 knockouts, will square off with Mebalot, 7-2-1 with 3 KOs, in the first bout scheduled at 7 p.m. Apit, 15-3-1 with 11 KOs, will then take on Melo, 12-3-1 with 7 KOs, in the main event set at 9 p.m. Fisforama Promotions director Dorothy Fisher announced that Mangubat, 17-4-1 with 11 knockouts, will square off with Mebalot, 7-2-1 with 3 KOs, in the first bout scheduled at 7 p.m. Apit, 15-3-1 with 11 KOs, will then take on Melo, 12-3-1 with 7 KOs, in the main event set at 9 p.m. "Gab Fisher Plus," featuring the elimination match between College of St. Benilde 1 and De La Salle University 3 in the FCBU Women's Inter-Collegiate Board Volleyball Challenge, airs at 3 p.m.

Las Piñas champs set to defend title

LAS PIÑAS. LAGUNA'S DEFENDING CHAMPIONS IN THE GOLDEN BOY'S Cup Basketball Championship are formidable and Saturday, at Las Piñas Coliseum. Ready to defend the title are Marlon de Castro and Randy Garcia of Barangay LNU, which also routed the 8th entry behind pair after a 63-0 basketball performance. To be hosted by former Mayor Nene Aguilar, the event is expected to draw more than 500 entries this year, and has a guaranteed prize of P1 million for an entry fee of P1,000. The champion will receive a trophy and three refrigerators. Meanwhile, tournament manager Nino Tolosa announced that walk-in participants may bring their cheer on Thursday for semi-finals on screening, big handing overnight to a from 8:00 a.m. For inquiries, call (02) 3 1040, 614-3911 and 0928-6 9555 (Smart).

First leg of LGBA Stag Derby up

THE FIRST LEG OF LUZON-AMERICAN BROTHERS ASSOCIATION (LBA) CBAC Derby series will be staged in three events. Three will be at the Acacia Golfacon (Aug. 26 and 31). Manor Sports Complex of Jan Sevilla (Sept. 1) and Greater Golfers Arena headed by Jun Yap (Sept. 2). With more than 150 fights lined up at the Acacia derby, the event will debut at 10 a.m. LBBB president Rene "Boy" Dancuan. The new stag derby format will be adopted. Highlight of the first leg series is the appearance this year's LBBA Stag Derby Champion. The new format 1 spot (P1,000 per Shot Blasts) and Eugene Tan (P500,000 per Shot) were last year's Gamecock Breeder of the Year co-winners. Contact (02) 8 1040, 614-3911 and 0928-6 9555 (Smart).

Rambulan screening today at SJC

SCREENING OF ATHLETES WILL BE HELD TODAY IN CONNECTION WITH SEA Juan Collegiate Athletic Association's mug derby which will be sponsored by Sagunan Corporation (SSC). To accommodate the huge number of participants, screening will be conducted from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. today, said president Ronnie Lucero who is being headed by the SJC management. The first batch of more than 50 participants given cap for battle on Monday's 2-mug elimination round. Other contenders will be on Aug. 23, 24, 28 and 30. The singles offering (95 x native to circular was a spin-off of last month's Rambulan which attracted 1994 native Vitas Derby fans to P8,000. Call (02) 8 8809 (T) or 725-1000 and 726-8462.

Manuel couple heads scramble victors

PONG MANUEL AND WIFE LIA, playing with different partners, emerged the winners in their respective divisions in the second edition of the Manuel Couple Scramble Classic at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club course in Trece Martires, Cavite City.

Pong Manuel joined hands with the lady Irwin Wishon for a seven-under 65 and the two-stroke win over Jun Oh and his partner David Uy who dominated runner-up honors via the countback in Division 1.

Not to be outdone, Lia Manuel combined with Sabine Tan for a 71 that was three shots the Division 3 prize over Odie Cuneta and Nelly Dapilag who placed second after a tiebreak in the runaway received by Mariano through its local distributor Master Sports due to popular demand.

Nilo Pacheco and Joey de Jesus took the Division 2 crown of the tourney given major support by The Bronze at the Riviera, Casino Filipino/Pagcor, BMW Philippines and Philippine Airlines.

The other sponsors are Citibank, Multibrand, Bacon Burden Wines, Discovery Suites, Pepsi, Gatorade, BMG Isetan, Power Bay, Oakley, Citgo, C-Liam Fibre, Bounce Golf and Golf Digest Philippines.

Patricio and De Jesus scored a 72 to finish a shot better than Marilyn Ty and Jason Ty.

All three division champions qualified for the finals scheduled next year at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course. The winners will win all-expense paid trips in Japan where they will be given the chance to watch the LPGA Mizuno Classic in Inome.

They join the previous winners in Valley in the list of qualifiers. Next up is the eliminations leg at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club on Sept. 16.

Manuel Sports Lowell Cupar at al. joined players from various sponsoring hosts in a friendly game provided them to the best dish. For inquiries, email sxxmiz@hotmail.com.ph.

Perpetual, St. Francis, La Salle-HSC win

PERPETUAL HELP-SYSTEM, ST. Francis of Assisi-Batong and host La Salle-Health and Science Campus crushed their respective rivals at the start of the 7th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCAA) at the grounds of Polytechnic La Salle, De La Salle Health Sciences Campus in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

The Malayo Alas, steering power options Erik Espinoza and Ruben Buenaventura, swept STI, Sta. Rosa, 25-11, 25-14, 25-9, in men's volleyball, before their women counterparts followed suit with a 25-17, 25-18, 25-23, 25-16 victory over La Salle-HSC.

Other volleyball results saw San Pedro College of Business Administration sidelining the hosts, 25-16, 25-14, 25-16, in the men's competitions, and Philippine Christian University beat STI-Sta. Rosa, 25-14, 25-13, 25-12, in the distaff side.

In Varsity and Staff Basketball, La Salle-HSC posted a 93-66 victory over PCU. Dasma in a game where Mac Bautista scored a game-high 27 points.

But the biggest triumph for the day belonged to the St. Francis of Assisi College-Batong Batong, who monopolized STI Sta. Rosa, 100-21, to begin their campaign on a blazing note.

Benedicto Bala Cruz of SHC scored 32 points and got ample support from Bulover Enero, who banged away 23 markers.

"We are looking forward to a bigger season this year," said SLCAA president Benjo Viola of St. Francis-Batong. "From our humble beginnings seven years ago, we have grown to be the premiere athletic association in Southern Luzon and we intend to keep it that way."

Other members of the league are Perpetual Help-Calamba, Brent International School (Binan), Colegio San Agustin (Biñan), Lyceum Institute of Technology and new member Cavite State University.

Sports directors of the school members, together with Dr. Benito P. Antonio, VP for Academic Services of DLS-HSC, Mayor Eduardo Barcenas of Dasmariñas, Cavite, and former congressman Joyce Taruc attended the opening ceremonies. St. Francis of Assisi third year high school student Toni Mae Martinez was adjudged Best Mom.

OFFICIAL: La'ista Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association. (From left) Miles Pudutan of STI, auditor; Dave Linsao of Ipcoam, Sports coordinator; Tony Abad of Brent, treasurer; Benjo Viola of St. Francis, president; Rosemarie Tagarino of UPHSD Molino, treasurer and Paula Beino of DLS-HSC, sports coordinator.

La Consolacion leans on junior stars to thwart PCA

LA CONSOLACION TENNIS CLUB LOADED on juniors old tennis Kyle Joshua Dandoy and Ralph Kevin Soto to overcome Philippine Columbian Association, 9-5, yesterday in the Prince Home and Away Invitational Team Tennis tournament at the La Consolacion Tennis Club indoor court in Paranaque City.

Dandoy and Soto, both members of the ISP Junior Davis Cup team, two years ago, surprised Michael Mitic and Julius Pascual, 9-7 (7), in the finale of the men's open division.

La Consolacion took a 2-0 lead after Butch Mejico and Gerald Mercadilla were by default over Hanky Lee and Alden Sotto in the men's 35 above division while Shammy Capulong and Bernie Hao won two record an 8-3 victory over Glenn Chua and Ray Gamos in the men's 45 above category.

PCA bounced back in the men's 35 division after Charlie Sia and Mike Ty beat Jay Suntay and Nestor Itaz, 8-3, but La Consolacion made it 3-1 when Jimmy Tiongco and Tommy Villarubio won the men's 55 division over Ed Reyes and General Francisco, 8-4.

In other matches, La Consolacion's Pio Tolentino and Dodong Bautillar downed Ivan Ramon and Roland Kwan, 8-3, to the other men's open division while PCA's Joy Sanchez and Deborah Lee overbeat Lou Bluemmle and Cecil Arias, 8-3, in the ladies class.

La Consolacion Tennis Club owner Dave Silverado awarded the Prince Home and Away glass trophies, medals and Prince products to the winners of the event supported by Yellow Cab Pizza.

KYLE Dandoy of La Consolacion makes a double-handed backhand return in his match against PCA yesterday.

RP 9-Ball Open slates qualifiers

THE SAN MIGUEL PHILIPPINE 9-BALL OPEN GOES regional this year with five qualifying legs slated in Lucena, Tarlac, Mindanao and National Capital Region areas.

The first leg of the annual tournament gets under way on Aug. 26-27 in Davao City. Registration fee is P1,000, inclusive of a case of San Miguel beer.

The event is co-organized by Solar Sports and Pepsi Sports and supported by San Miguel will have stops at the Robinson's Galleria on Sept. 2-3, Cebu City on Sept. 9-10, Baguio City on Sept. 23-24 and Pure Gold on Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

The top four players in every leg will receive P5,000 cash and advance to the finals on Oct. 12-14 where they will join the 12 seeded players, including the top eight finishers last year. Solar Sports, Pepsi Sports and San Miguel will shoulder the transportation and accommodation expenses of the provincial winners.

Invited to the finals are past legends Efren "Bata" Reyes, Ano "Boboy" Bolisa, Marlon Manalo and Rudolf Gallego.

Realtors torn between Fil-Am, Santos

AFTER having been the consensus No. 1 pick in the coming draft, Far Eastern U product Jawsied Santos may find himself slipping down to No. 2 as the Lucio takes a long, hard look at Fil-Am Kelly Williams.

By Jose Mariano

ESTHER SYA, LUCIA REALTY GREED ON ITS HOME-grown image as lets go one of the most enduring prospects in the Philippine Basketball Association in several years.

This is the dilemma facing the Realtors when they choose this year's top overall pick during the annual PBA rookie draft today at the Market Market shopping center in Taguig.

Though Sta. Lucia officials are keeping their lips sealed, chances are the Realtors would reserve the No. 1 pick to Kelly Williams, the only Filipino-American rookie hopeful in the draft who has become the obsession of every team in the league.

Or, the Realtors could go back to their original choice—6'6½ Jawsied Santos—and be the laughing stock of the PBA as one of the first overlord ever called it.

Not that the 6-foot-5 Santos, who led the Tamaraws to two UAAP crowns with his rock MVP performances, is a mediocre choice. But passing up Williams would be like risking a dozen of opportunity for a Sta. Lucia championship.

Acquiring an impact player has become a must for the Realtors ever since the team's old stars—Kenneth Duremdes, Marlon Asuncion and Dennis Espinosa—are nearing the twilight of their careers.

Aside from his credentials, the reasons for grabbing Williams are also compelling.

The versatile 6-foot-5 swingman out of Oakland University has been the most electrifying player in the ISP men's basketball team composed mostly of NBA players.

Talented team mates and San Miguel Beer coach Chot Reyes, who encouraged Williams to come over from the US, rave that his shooting touch has a chance of topping Williams in the draft.

And considering that San Miguel Corporation would not have another Fil-American' duty in the crossover for almost two years if the Detroit, Michigan native isn't worth it.

Sta. Lucia's impending choice of Williams, however, reportedly doesn't excite Magnolia's grown guy in the Philippine Basketball League. And the 24-year-old Williams, who missed last year's draft because of his citizenship papers, was quick to cash in it.

"I don't wanna get caught up in the ins and outs of all these speculations," said Williams. "As far as I'm concerned, I'm just happy at the opportunity to be in the draft. Let God's will be done."

Though the reality of not getting Williams has been a jolt to Reyes and the Beermen, the choice of Williams as the top overall pick could be pleasing to Sta.Lu governors and team manager Ben Alejandro.

Assuming second overall, the Tigers will certainly ask Lucio to shore up its frontline while the Coca-Cola Tigers, who will be picking third, are torn between forwards Dindo Pumaren and Gabby Espinas.

The Tigers need a big man to fill the void left by Billy Ighnacio and Joel Banal who were sent to the Sarangani Cobras ring following a three-team trade involving the Express.

With Williams out, the Beermen are keen on using their fourth and fifth overall picks on Arnies guard Lewis Alford Tenorio and reluctant sensation available between Yap and Espinas.

The Realtors could take Joseph Yeo at No. 6 while Alaska (seventh), Tide Ye Yeo (eighth), Purefoods (ninth) and Welcoat Paints could take the last talents available.

PNSA's new star search up Aug. 26

PADILLA

THE PHILIPPINE SAtional Shooting Association's 20 Meter Marksmanship Training Seminar starts on Aug. 26 as the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio.

A basketball of twotime Olympian and PSA president Art Macapagal, the event hopes to develop a new breed of young Filipino shooting stars since it is open to boys and girls aged 12 to 21 years.

So far, 50 individuals have signed up for the 8 hrs. to 5 p.m. seminar sponsored by Thermos, a leading multi-national company in the energy and environment sector specializing in biomass and coal fired equipment.

"This is a good opportunity for the aspirants to learn a lot of new things about shooting where national coaches like Andres Masi, Mones Giao and Alberto Adriano will be around to train them," said personnel director and PSSA pistol committee chair Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, adding that the PSSA will make guns available to the participants. Padilla and Macapagal will give the opening and closing remarks, respectively. The other speakers are Col. Emilio Gandiza, Mary Grace and Adriano. Late entries may go to the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio. Call Apolo Cabezon or Mario Bonilla at 636-0627 and 636-0631.

Hawks continue NAASCU recovery

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ELPIDIO REY HUMBLE UNIVERSITY OF Manila is getting its groove back.

The first-time defending champions showed signs of recovery after a rough start, scoring a 64-61 come-from-behind victory over Centro Escolar yesterday to gain foothold in the second round of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities.

Finally throwing the pride and losing of the team that held the longest winning streak in collegiate basketball history, the Hawks fought hardest in the endgame with old reliables Pid Jimenez and Onofre Sinjaya walking with game-winning baskets at the UM Gym.

With the Scorpions holding a 61-60 edge, Jimenez first stepped with a jumper with just 47 seconds left to gain the upperhand. The Hawks put up one defensive stop in the next play and went to the driving Sinjaya to complete the scoring with 27.7 seconds to go.

CEU, last year's runner-up, made the last stand but could not connect on UM employed full-court pressure that used up the clock.

It was the Hawks' fifth win in nine games, improving their chances of making the six-team second round following a three-loss (5-3) start.

The Scorpions managed to stay among the top half of the standings with a 5-3 record, behind San Sebastian-Centro (7-1), EIS (6-2) and AMACC (5-2).

The scores

(FIRST GAME finals)

(M-to - Santiago 24, Bagtas 15, Dumo 11, Mallari 7, Dalusbon 6, Adriatico 1, Tolin 0, Velasco 0, Serrano 0, Sarmiento, Quiapo 0, Quintero)

(M-W - Jimenez 17, Magno 9, Jacobe 10, Fernandez 6, Sinjaya 16, Gonzales 4, Chung 7, Marquez 0, Jamero 0)

Quarters 15-16, 27-32, 43-45, 64-61

Innova at stake in Rotary golf

A TOYOTA INNOVA WILL BE THE GOLF PRIze prize in the 10th RGFFP Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of t he Philippines) Southern Leg Tournament on Aug. 26-26 in Bacolod City.

RGFFP board chair Paquo Ortigas said Toyota Philippines membership the president Danny Ma and Toyota Valenzuela and Toyota Manila Bay president Cave Bautista had agreed to the sponsorship.

RGFFP president Josh Sycuangco said the deadline for entry-bird entries has been extended until Tuesday. PSC and former Vice Mayor Chuck Garcia of BF-Bacolod North, past president Rolando Valdez of Bacolod Central and Bacolod Executive will host a dinner on Aug. 25 at the new Mansions Clubhouse. Contact Pauline Arrollo at 8924-93 99888, 72983 Pete Ong 725 5940.

Lapid to look into travel woes of Pinoy cue artists

SEN. LITO LAPID HAS ASSURED SOME OF the country's top pool players he would help facilitate the issuance of travel documents they need to compete in international tournaments.

The chairman of the Senate committee on Games, Amusements and Sports promised his support before an audience with the cue artists led by their manager and billiards parlor Gabriel Mariano at the Manila Hotel's Senator's Lounge Thursday.

Mariano informed Lapid that some of his players have failed to secure visas needed for them to compete in big international competitions in the USA.

He said the 10-visa application of Antonio Gabica, a gold medalist in last year's Manila Southeast Asian Games and the 2004 10-9-ball open champion from Lapu-Lapu City was rejected three times.

He added that the late-rising Roberto Gomez from Dumbauguan City was denied last month.

Mariano noted that even the 27-year-old Dennis Orcollo, who won five of the seven tournaments in the US pool circuit this year, was denied visas before he got his visa last January.

Only recently, Orcollo finished third worth $60,000 in the 2000 South International Open Championship and World Pool Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"These pool players are among the new generation of cue artists who can easily be a source of pride for our country. They must be given special attention just our OFWs who are considered "Bagong Bayani" by our government," said Mariano.

Lapid asked the group to submit a formal letter so that the matter can be studied thoroughly and the problem addressed by the proper agency.

He also instructed his head consultant Ike Pacunal, who used to work at the US Embassy, to look into the possibility of the players being issued "courtesy visa" or "courtesy pass."

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

JOET Orduna (No. 91) was way ahead midway the 20-lap race to win the Mini-BOK division over favorites Rene Pacsogan and Franco Reyes recently in the sixth leg of the 2006 Shell Supercharting Series at the Short Track of the Enchanted Kingdom. Inset: Orduna raises up trophy.

Orduna heads big haul for Tuason Racing team

JOET ORDUNA DELIVERED THE biggest wins for Tuason Racing recently in the sixth leg of the 2006 Shell Supercharting Series at the Short Track of the Enchanted Kingdom.

The 10-year-old Orduna, a fifth grader of Maria Montessori School, quickly stepped on the gas and built a wide margin midway to cruise to a speed zone victory in the Pacsogan and Franco Reyes in the Mini-BOK division.

He finished second behind Pacsogan in the first race but set a quick drive at the green light signal grabbed the pole and he never looked back from there on.

Orduna wrapped up the 20-lap race in 12 minutes and 25.278 seconds as he finished 11 seconds ahead of Pacsogan and Reyes, who clocked in second and third, respectively.

"At the start of the race, I tried to overtake everybody and never looked back," said Joey, son of Jacob Orduna and the former Imelda Ramonsolo. "I pushed myself to the limit even if it's raining and it was a good experience."

With his win, Joey earned 80 points for the day and moved up to second overall in the title race with 330 points or just 65 points behind Pacsogan.

Jeffrey Tiongson, Bobbie Sevilla and Ted Tinsiba also delivered respectable finishes for The Tuason Racing Team.

CUE MASTERS: Members of Bugsy's Promotion Billiards Stable of Pony and Perry Mariano are competing in the 2006 WCP National Championships. (From Left) Jeffrey De Luna, Jeanvere Peña, Dennis Orcollo, Antonio Gabica, Perry and Perry Mariano, Efren Kalaquian, Roberto Gomez, Carlo Biado and Ronnie Alcano.

WOODS: Down by just one

Woods lurks behind strange mix at top

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—NO EUreputes has been a major championship in seven years, so almost anyone has claimed one in 13 years and no one called "Lamper," has ever taken a Grand Slam title.

Think Tiger Woods is an outsider?

On a breezy, rainy Friday at Medinah Country Club, Woods joined the kind of conservative, strategic golf that has won him six major championships and play his last 14 rounds 6-00 under par.

He shot 4-under-par 68 during the second round of the 88th PGA Championship and made a mistake behind a foursome of leaders whose names variously ranks don't come close to even half of Woods' PGA Tour haul of 40.

Sweden's Henrik Stenson and England's Luke Donald were joined atop the leaderboard by Billy Andrade, who didn't turn his head get-up-and-go since he left the golf course until Tuesday and Tim Herron, who goes by the nickname Jumpin'.

Woods, who won the 1999 PGA here, has also won 10 Open championships Geoff Ogilvy (left) and former PGA champ Davis Love (69).

Four other players, including Donal Toms and Fred Funk, were just two back of the lead, with Sergio Garcia and Mike Weir in a group three back. Mickelson shot 71 and was four back, 36 to tie for 13th.

This is good shape, only one back," said Woods, who last month won the British Open for the Phillies Rogers with 11 major championships, and two weeks ago won the Buick Open for his 50th PGA Tour title, joining just six others with that many victories.

"There's a hundred leaderboard. You know it was going to be that way with soft greens, and that's basically what it's turned out to be. You've got to make some birdies here and there and try not to give anything back."

That was the case for Woods, who had four birdies and no bogeys, including an 18-footer for birdie at the 18th, to put him at 1-37, seven under par. It was another day of low scoring at Medinah, with 82 rounds under par. The 36 holes cut came at par 149.

Woods trailed two European Ryder Cup members in Stenson and Donald, both of whom are ranked among the top 20 in the world.

Stenson, 30, has a victory and two runner-up finishes this year on the European PGA Tour, and Donald won the Honda Classic. Both are 0-for-8 holes at 1-36, 8 under par.

Still they are trying to buck some bad odds. It is tough enough with Woods in his pursuit, but no European has won a major championship since Paul Lawrie in the British Open in 1999.

And the last to win the PGA? Rehabilitation Tommy Aaron in 1973.

Donald, at least, has a good story for Sunday, hailing point to attend at nearby Northwestern, where he was an NCAA individual title in 2000. He moved to Chicago and played Medinah several times before this week.

"I think I've got to the stage right now where I feel like I should be competing and having a chance to win tournaments," said Donald. "I think in previous years I've been getting a little bit ahead of myself. I've been coming into it expecting to play well and putting a little too much pressure on myself." AP/Beacon Newspapers

HENRIK Stenson chips to the fourth green.

Fan swats back Tiger's errant drive

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—A 30-year-old fan from Phillipsburg Field, Tiger Woods got a first-shot bonus Friday from a helpfulfan.

The fan generously knocked to round the first fairway on Woods' responsible shot might or might not have impacted his score. But it established as one by procedure his stunning momentum swings during a second-round filled with them at the PGA Championship.

The fan was passed to be the most efficient. It coming in favor of Colonial champ Tim Herron, who drained the last two birdie putts he fired up during a second 67 to move to 6-under-par and into a four-way tie for the lead.

Herron, who began his round on the back nine, said the fan-of-someone definitely affected him to be "a little more aggressive" on his shots down the stretch. He capitalized by covering the flagstick with his tee shot on the par-3 eighth hole and making a tap-in birdie. At his final hole, Herron said he got "a good recall" from playing partner Al Geiberger and busted the 20-footer that vaulted him into a share of the lead.

"Starting the week, I never thought anyone would be this late going into the weekend," Herron said. "But we haven't had much wind. The greens are soft. If you hit good shots, you're making birdies."

Davis Love III joined Woods and Geoff Ogilvy in a three-player group at one stroke off the pace.

"I'm making it interesting every day," said Love, who had a triple-bogey in the first round. "But it's a major. And if you don't hit good shots, you can make bogeys really quick."

Unless, of course, you get assist from a fan who sends your errant tee shot back toward the fairway. That happened for Woods at No. 3, when his drive heading toward the left trees, a fan reached out and deflected it back toward the fairway. Woods saved par from the deep rough.

"I knew I got a weird leap," Woods said, when told the story after his round. "Yes, I appreciate it. It's nice to have thing out there knocking them back."

AP/Times-News Service

Ogilvy thrives under the spotlight

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—IF ENDAY Wins JUST about the golf, Geoff Ogilvy would have owned the joint.

For the second day in a row, the theme was crunch time in the middle of the biggest gallery—for most of the day, it felt like the only gallery on sprawling Medinah Country Club—and unlike playing partners Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, Ogilvy actually spent most of it playing from the middle of the fairway. Hit first means you're not last.

Though Ogilvy and Woods are tied at 7-under 137, a stroke off the lead and closer better than Mickelson, when the three emerged from the morning mulled after the second round, his was more illustrious companions were immediately mentioned by media scrums. Seeking the first major victory, one opportunity. TV interviewer pulled Ogilvy over to the side.

"Sure," Ogilvy joked before the six-ply light finished, "just the Australians out of the way."

That won't be so easy to say over the weekend, based on the way Ogilvy played the first two days here. He has been the model of steady, methodical company that mentioned—most birdies, bitterness, bit and gimme in regulation, not to mention fewest putts—and just as impressive, Ogilvy looked like he belonged.

"Well," said Woods, "there's a reason why he's the #10 Open champion."

"Man," echoed Mickelson. "he sure hit it pure."

It only the crowds liking, every fairway over half or so, pressed.

At No. 6, Mickelson hit an overhanging branch nearly 90 yards (27 meters) from the tee and his drive had the ball finish coming to rest some 50 yards (46 meters) right of the fairway. In unenviable fashion, most of the golfers along the right side hurried off to chase the wild ball, and a line of tents, and surrounded the ball. The five spectators who hadn't pushed off proceeded to slide down the slope and clustered to the right rough, where a mounted had removed his hat over Woods' second drive to make sure his middle could find it.

Ogilvy unremarkable, missed his drive down the middle, his approach to 8 feet and watched Woods and Mickelson scramble all over the place while only audit on his face. Soon after, the three were reunited on the green. In about unless Mickelson knocked down a 45-footer he put to wild cheers, and Woods, accompanied by a loud cheers, rolled in a 12-footer to save his.

By the time Ogilvy made his birdie, about all the crowd could summon was polite applause. It was the third of four straight birdies, and the sequence—the others weren't much better to watch of being unsuspected, the will deepen using Aussie was grateful.

"A lot of guys would have killed for accomplishment like that," he said. "You gotta fortunate I got to play two days with those guys. One, because you learn a lot by watching them play. And two, because you learn how to deal with all the stuff that goes on before rounds."

"It's a bit different from mine," he added. "They can keep their world, but it's not for a few days. You can't help but gain confidence."

Translation: watch all.

While Ogilvy never expected to be the overall favorite, he did share some confidences from having recognized now and then. Until he registered on Mickelson's meltdown at the US Open in June, he was also confronted with PGA Tour regular Joe Ogilvie. So much so that on Thursday, registered in among all the "Go, Phil!" and "Kick the man, Tiger!" shouts was at least one "Hi, Joe."

"Obviously, the crowd was a bit more vocal today than yesterday. I guess they had a bit more time," Ogilvy said, recalling Thursday's 6:30 a.m. tee time. "we got themselves to the second.

"But there were no more 'Go, Joe!' today," he added with a mischievous smile, "and quite a few more, 'Go, Geoff!'" AP

OGILVY

Jones flunks dope test, says source

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA—TRIPLE Olympic sprint champion Marion Jones has failed an initial doping test, a source familiar with the test said.

The positive test of Jones' A sample recovered in the June US championships in Indianapolis, the source, who did not wish to be identified, said.

US officials requested the blood-boosting drug erythropoietin (EPO) had been found in Jones' urine sample.

Under trial-doping protocols, an athlete is not considered to have committed a doping offence until his or her B sample has tested positive and the athlete has been afforded an administrative hearing.

Jones would face a maximum of a two-year ban if it is determined she has committed a doping offense.

Neither the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) nor the US Olympic Committee (USOC) would comment.

A spokesman for the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) said it was unable to comment on individual cases until the result of the B sample was known or if the athlete in question had been suspended from competition.

Jones' general counsel also would not discuss the matter.

"It is unfortunate that the integrity and the confidentiality of the testing process may have been breached, but Marion Jones has always been clean. She has never taken performance-enhancing substances...now more, not ever," Rob Nichols said in a statement.

Reuters

Holyfield starts comeback with TKO

EVENDER Holyfield (right) lands a left against Jeremy Bates

DALLAS, TEXAS—EVANDER HOLYfield began his career comeback looking a lot more like "The Real Deal" than he has in years.

Holyfield walked Among Bates into the ropes late in the first round, withstood a few hard shots—including one to his knee—early in the second, then scored a pair of knockdowns in the third to cruise to a unanimous decision in his return to the ring after 18 months. The victory was his first since June 2001.

"I was able to do the things I haven't been doing to show the press," said Holyfield, coaching his 11-month layoff for personal reasons.

The 43-year-old Holyfield ended a seven-round skid of three straight losses since his last victory over Hasim Rahman. That doesn't even include getting KO'd last summer on the reality television show "Dancing With The Stars."

A crowd of about 6,000 thanked "Holy-field!" about 40 seconds in, then the four-time heavyweight champion really got them roaring over the last 20 seconds of the first round. He stopped Bates in the middle of the ring, leaning him against the ropes with a flurry of punches. The bell saved him from further damage.

Bates (23-12-1) had the best success early around hard right that pushed Holyfield back in the second round. A minute later, Holyfield put the guy to the ropes, but several clashes capped what ever momentum Bates was building.

Holyfield soon pinned Bates again and began pounding his face and body. There was so little resistance that Bates' trainer stepped the fight rather than let Bates be served by the bell again.

This fight began what's being hyped as "Holyfield 'I: The Final Chapter," a comeback he fully expects to end with his rematch of the heavyweight championship with the fifth time. He's already the only 5-person to do it four times.

He figures he can isn't a home because George Foreman got the title at 45. And he dismisses his lack of success the past five years to a shoulder injury and cramps, all of which he said he's managing better. Holyfield boxed by New York officials revoking his license because of "diminished skills and poor performance" in his previous fight, a blowout 2004 loss to Larry Donald. AP

Phelps leads US swimming charge at Pan Pacific event

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA—MICHAEL Phelps won his second individual gold medal of the Pan Pacific Championships, then returned to lead off swimmers on the United States' victorious 800-metre freestyle relay Friday.

Neither effort produced a world record, although the quartet of Phelps, Ryan Lochte, Peter Vanderkaay and Klete Keller were under pace most of the way until Keller took it on the final lap.

They won in 7 minutes, 03.24 seconds, topping Australia's Pan Pacific record of 7:08.79. It was the Americans' fifth gold medal of the night.

The United States won by a whopping 7.11 seconds over Canada and bronze-medalist Australia.

Phelps demolished the 400-individual medley field by more than 3 seconds.

He took the lead his good after two laps, then extended home to win 4:10.46—well off his 2-year-old world mark, but good enough to better Ian Pan for second (4:14.46 to 4:20).

American teammates Robert Allengale rounded close to win 4:13.16. Thiago Pereira captured Brazil's first medal of the meet with a bronze.

Phelps grimaced as he made his way to the edge of the pool, clearly disappointed in not seeing another world record blot his old in the 200-meter IM Thursday night.

Katie Hoff matched Phelps with her second individual gold, then anchored the US women to victory in the 800-free relay.

The team of Natalie Coughlin, Lacey Nymeyer, Dana Vollmer and Hoff took over in 8:54.63, bettering the Pan Pac record set by the United States' Australians (8:58 seconds behind) his silver. AP

WILD HAMILTON TEAM IN LAONA: Boston Marine Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (2nd from right) and Board Member Michael Kone (extreme right) embrace the Nile Marathon team at the Boston North Capitol on this day. The team, composed of Bryan right) Cathy Jaygarden of Pulaski-Hazelo, Mike Brown, Space Executive Pat Lee Ong, marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho and swimmer Jeff Thelma Biscocho and Jaylyne Sarmiento, will help in the staging of the Laong Lag island today.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2006

US trips Puerto Rico

Germany strikes; Australia forges upset

LEBRON James and the US flex their muscles on the court of the World Championships. REUTERS

Lebanon finds 'ray of sunshine'

HADI El Khatib hugs teammate Hassan Baiko after their victory. AP

SENDAI, JAPAN—JOSEPH YOUEL and Fadi El Khatib scored key baskets in the final minutes Saturday to lead Lebanon to an 82-72 win over Venezuela in the basketball world championships.

Youel, who was born in the United States but holds Lebanese citizenship, gave Lebanon a 78-67 lead with a now-banished slam dunk with just over a minute remaining.

"[It's] really for our country. This is a great victory," said Lebanon's American coach Paul Coughlin. "At this time there is a black cloud over Lebanon and this is a ray of sunshine."

El Khatib, who led Lebanon with 20 points, then made it 79-72 with a pair of freebies and hit two more at the buzzer to give Lebanon a 10-point margin.

Lebanon lost all five games and finished in last place at the 2002 world championships.

Venezuela led 57-56 after the third quarter but climaxed it had let a commanding seven-point (Oscar Torres) opening put itself out of bounds with Lebanon leading 77-73.

El Khatib is one of the NBDL dad's best players. Two years ago, he unsuccessfully tried to get a release from his club team in the week-long with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Lebanon, 26th in the Fiba rankings, is entering under Paul Hoang, who is rounded in intercontinental problems.

Youel had nothing but praise for El Khatib.

"He'll come out on fire and started the spark in the third quarter," said Youel. "That's what he does, he's our leader, our captain." AP

Akognon shoots Nigeria past Serbia-Montenegro

SENDAI, JAPAN—ZEE UDOKA SCORED 18 points and guard Ayub Akognon had a key 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter for surprising Nigeria to upset Serbia and Montenegro, 81-75, at the basketball world championships.

Akognon gave Nigeria a 74-66 lead with three minutes left and the African held on for the win over the two-time defending champions.

"We stuck to our game plan," said Udoka. "We knew we were the quicker team. They were bigger, but we got the job done."

Serbia-Montenegro, which won the world title in 2002 in Indianapolis while competing as Yugoslavia, pulled to within four points in the final minute, but free throws by Luke Mcmahon and Udoka sealed the win for Nigeria.

Udoka, who played for the New York Knicks' pre-season, hit a 3-pointer in the final seconds of the third period to give Nigeria a 59-56 lead heading into the last 10 minutes.

Serbia-Montenegro didn't qualify for this tournament, but made it to the world's as a wild-card. Many of the nation's top NBA players, like Nenad Krstic of the New Jersey Nets and Aleksandar Pavlovic of the Cleveland Cavaliers, didn't play for Dragan Sakota's team.

"I don't use the team as an excuse," said Akognon. American coach Isaac Fontaine. "We kept a big, strong team on the 30 points."

Igor Rakocevic, who played a year in the NBA for the Minnesota Timberwolves, led Serbia-Montenegro with 20 points and was the only player to score in double digits for the Europeans.

Nigeria, which led 20-20 at the break, qualified by finishing third in the Fiba Africa Championship. AP

Hingis thwarts powerful rival, reaches semifinals

MARTINA Hingis celebrates her quarterfinal win over Svetlana Kuznetsova at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Montreal. REUTERS

MONTREAL—MARTINA HINGIS HELD OFF the power shots of fourth-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova to win 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory Friday in the quarterfinals of the Rogers Cup.

Hingis, the former No. 1 in the world and second-seeded, advanced to a semifinal on Saturday against 19-year-old Russian Anna Chakvetadze, a 7-6 (5), 7-5 winner over Australian Jelena Dokic.

Fourth-seeded Nadia Petrova, from Russia, and 13th-seeded Ana Ivanovic of Serbia will meet in the other semifinal.

The 25-year-old Hingis was the dominant player on the WTA tour in the late 1990s, taking three of the four grand slam tournaments in 1997. She left the tour after the 2002 season with a heavily ankle.

She won 40 WTA tournaments, including the 1999 and 2000 Rogers Cups. She returned to the Tour this season and has climbed to No. 12 in the rankings.

Hingis should move higher after a routing win over No. 7 Kuznetsova before a sellout crowd of 13,437 at Uniprix Stadium.

"Winning the first set was the key," she said. "I gained the momentum.

"But I'm just so happy to be back in the semifinals again."

Each player had three service breaks in the opening set, with Hingis' sixth eleven deep shots and rushes to the net to collect Kuznetsova's powerful groundstrokes.

"I knew this was a top-10 match, so it feels great making it on my own," Hingis said. "It was my serve goal to make it. I was hoping for it so I would get better seeding in the US Open."

Hingis broke service to start the second set and held on with the help of some outstanding outlooks from Kuznetsova, who surrendered her serve without winning a point in the final game of the match.

I don't want to blame anybody and make excuses that I lost because of the lights, but you could see how many balls I missed just because I couldn't see them," said Kuznetsova, the 2004 US Open champ. "It was so frustrating.

"It's completely different at night. The ground all just disappears at night or I think it was enough adjusting to here."

The match first until the top two remaining seeds in a tournament that lost most of its top stars to withdrawals and injuries.

Dokua defeated Nicole Pratt, 6-3, 6-0. AP

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

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■ **Ancient looms** weave modern haute couture /B3

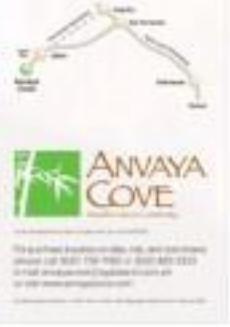
ANVAYA COVE

Lots designed to suit individual needs and tastes

AyalaLand

I didn't get to keep the starfish... I didn't keep the sea cucumber either.

But I'm hoping the baby she wishes I kept gave me!



ANVAYA COVE

Former butcher boy finds selling in his blood

Gives up life in Canada to go back to trading in the Philippines

By Ronald G. Pono
Inquirer Southern Luzon

WHENEVER Employees of the 2.7-hectare Monterrosa 1904 Spring and Conference Resort (MRCR) in the City of Calamba greet you "Good Morning!" at night, don't be surprised.

They have made "Good Morning!" a 24-hour greeting.

"The resident will tell to Manny Boots," says owner Benedicto delos Santos, fondly called Benny.

Boots, as opposed to sunset, brings hope, optimism and new life, Benny explains. "So that our outlook is always positive."

Receptionists, the guards, security guards and other personnel up to the top management know this by heart. It is "taboo to greet guests 'Good afternoon' or 'Good evening'" in this resort, about 60 kilometers south of Metro Manila.

Aside from Monterrosa, Benny has expanded his resort business by buying the nearby 4-hectare Mahiling Highlands Resort and the 17-ha Monterrosa Beach Resort, all in Sariaya, Quezon.

He family manages the entire businesses. His sister celebrates help in the management of the highland, manages the Max's Restaurant; daughter Kassandra is the operations and God rules the sales and marketing tasks.

He total assets in these four names are more than P1.1 billion.

Recently, Benny bought a Max's Restaurant franchise and built an outlet in the Monte Vista premises.

Meat vendor

Born to parents engaged in small-scale selling of pork in Bilibid Prison, Benny, eldest of 10 children, would carry meat on foot toward the town at the break of dawn to sell.

He was just a high school kid then. He said he simply mastered the technique of buying and butchering a pig, cutting and selling its meat.

Many, usually on Saturdays, he would go to outside Sariaya, looking for pigs to butcher and he would the next day for his customers.

By store looking at the pig, Benny was 99 percent accurate in the weight and hence, committed no mistake in paying the exact price of the livestock.

"Before paying the owner, I had to examine the tongue of the pig to ensure it was free from disease," Benny says.

By three on Sundays, the pork meat was prepared for selling.

"I was an expert in buying, butchering and selling meat. At 5 a.m., I was already walking on foot across the streets carrying about 60 to 100 kg of pork to be sold and delivered to (with pre-contracted) or would be customers. By 8 a.m., I would be preparing profusely by then, while my meat would be about 80-85 percent sold out," Benny recalls.

The years that he were almost daily was his blissful existence in the Philippine Military Training.

Seminarian

In high school, Benny's parents, who were not churchgoers, ironically sent him to a seminary run by the missionaries of the Society of the Divine Word.

In the seminary, his life was not that happy. Per day, his parents were too poor to visit him regularly.

During visiting days, he envied his fellow seminarians enjoy their parents' visits and the food they brought for their sons.

He quit the seminary after a year and went to Sariaya in Kinalaki and worked for one year as janitor of the Catholic Faith Center owned by the SVDs.

He went back home and resumed his high school.

Fortunately, his elderly stories and aunts, seeing good potential in this talented lad, gave encouragement to send the boy to college at the University of Santo Tomas to take up Nursing.

Life as a poor college student depending on the support of relatives was tough.

There were days inside the classroom where he experienced stomach pains due to hunger. He

HONTE Pinia Beach Resort in Sariaya, Quezon. (inset) owner Benedicto de Lana

hired were Toni Aranzanso who were able to avoid unnecessary meal.

After four long agonizing years in college, the young kid graduated on June 12, 1968.

Migrant

In 1969, Benny migrated to Canada and worked in a hospital. But each time he saw vendors of corkscrew passing along hospital premises, his unfilled business experiences resurrected somehow in Mexico rekindled in him.

The desire became stronger, prompting him to try vending corkscrews in a sideline.

Earning has this way Benny decided to resign from the hospital and be self-employed.

After five years, he started to compete in the corkscrew business in Canada.

In 1975, he established his own corkscrew business, Philkraft, which eventually exported worldwide.

In 1982, he put up the Philkraft corkscrew business branch in the Philippines, which evolved later what is now called Philkraft Packing and Development Corp. of the Philippines.

It developed rapidly throughout the country and in 1990, the company acquired the MRCR.

He bought MRCR to create a venue for meetings, seminars, outings, conventions and other activities for his employees in Philkraft instead of renting places in Southern Tagalog for one month but now.

"Those who attend will be set soldiers who are doctors, electricians, engineers, nurses and dentists.

Christian

Benny finds pleasure in helping the Church by supporting its construction projects and other needs—not only in Tiaong, Calamba City but also in Makati City in the latter prior to Eucharistic Congress.

He also says he is that he wants to all his establishments would not go through.

He gives them good salaries, bonuses or gifts during Christmas holidays.

He also provides his workers with regular spiritual, moral and physical enrichments so they begin and progress in their respective tasks.

Benny says he is among the big taxpayers in the province as he pays about P1 million for the resort's permit of the Max's Restaurant alone. He pays millions more to the government for his other investments.

The peak days and seasons when customers flock to these in these resort destinations are during summer holidays and weekends which starts Friday afternoon until Sunday evening.

But most of these resorts are available to customers 24 hours daily.

The MRCR, the nearly Mahiling Heights and the Monte Vista Beach Resort in Sariaya offer big discounts to friends in the church—like bishops, priests, nuns and lay people doing religious functions or pastoral work.

Regular customers also avail of discounts ranging from 10 percent or less.

When asked why the management is quite generous to the religious sector, Benny did not mention his reason—it remains unknown.

Instead, he says, he believes these people he has given favor would "a favor to his "adventure" who will encourage their friends and relatives to come to Monte Vista.

And he is right. MRCR and its other resorts are used often for host of various group outings, conferences and meetings of corporations and government institutions.

MRCR earned on the last quarter for the SP-US Bilateral exercises in southern Tagalog for one month last year.

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Footwear makers say 'tsinelas' trade 'kicking'

By Ronnie Perez
Inquirer Southern Luzon

ILIHAN, LAGUNA—Two of the pioneering makers in the footwear industry here have kept their enterprises alive, mainly because these continue to be lucrative.

Manufacturer Josielle Ingrid and retailer Chi's Footwear, by result in the industry because of their steady supply of slippers for customers here and abroad. As their products continue to enjoy patronage.

Emma Cosico Camello, the moving spirit behind Socialite, says the footwear business here is thriving.

In fact, her company shares the market with more than 100 other manufacturers of slippers of various sizes, styles, models, designs and colors in this town.

These include pioneering shoe producer Bulong Footwear, owned by Salvador Monteros.

There are 116 manufacturers who are members of 47 footwear establishments in Lilio.

Among these retailers are Chi's Footwear, run by sisters Carmencita Roxas Alimario and Gorilla Roxas Santander.

Trendy

Emma, 53, a graduate of the Centro Escolar University (CEU), initially had no inkling she would be involved in the "tsinelas" trade started by her parents sometime in 1995.

His parents owned a shoe business here which was named after her—Emma's Footwear.

A consumer graduate major in accounting, she became an accountancy clerk at Southern Philippines Medical Center here where she worked for 10 years.

Emma married Frankie Camello, 51, also a consumer graduate, whose parents also owned a shoe store named Socialite Footwear.

The couple eventually took the reins of their elderly parents' enterprises and renamed them as Socialite Ingrid Footwear after their only daughter Ingrid, 20, an Interior Design graduate.

They also have a son, Francis, 17, a graduate of Human Resource Management.

Located in the town's business hub, Socialite Ingrid is known for its trendy sandals, step-ins, clogs, slip-ons and slippers with prices ranging from P100 to P250.

Emma said her parents started the business in 1983 with P1,000 capital and a small space.

Today, they have a 4-story branch, the ground floor of which is the store, while a separate building across the street houses their manufacturing area.

Emma, with help from Frankie, handles marketing by researching on the latest designs for shoes or sandals or step-ins, both in the country and abroad, before producing them.

The finished product would be enhanced in color in local tones with appropriate colors and affordable selling prices, says Emma's daughter-in-law Mida, wife of Francis, who helps in the trade.

Emma Alimario approves design, six or a dozen samples of the product are made for initial display for customers to order.

Once the product becomes a hit to customers, mass production of design proceeds smoothly.

The finished product sells from P200 to P250 in Lilio and P350 and above in Manila.

Their slippers flip-flops, which were shown for material, costs P400 to Manila.

Occasionally, slipper products are offered at "1 for P100," and there are like bracelets to customers here and abroad.

TWO OF the oldest but generating footwear makers and retailers.

Secret

Emma has found her marketing skills also over 50 years of running the business, with Mida helping attract customers from among college friends or friends.

"I persuade them to sample more their products with the current style of shoes or sandals on offer so they can earn also," Mida says.

She adds that their footwear products could also be seen displayed in various Metro Manila commercial establishments like the SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, Shaker Mall of Asia, Trinoma and the like.

Emma is acknowledged to one of the most successful business, lecturers or speakers in Lilio and in Laguna.

She has received various awards because of this from the most recent of these was at outstanding alumnus of CEU.

Her secret to success: "Watching the trends here and abroad, on what we call here really choose the latest designs."

She refers to magazines as a good source of ideas for unique patterns and inside the local

SAMPLES of some but first class footwear of various styles, shapes and colors displayed at the Socialite Ingrid Footwear Store.

customers natural artistry in encouraging designs.

Emma recalls her unforgettable experience when in less than President Fidel Ramos visit of her store during the First Tsinelas Festival in April 2001, which showcased the locality's world-class footwear products.

She recalls: "I was so nervous when Ramos arrived. I was so nervous that I was about to faint."

But having in the valley of tourists coming to her store owners on weekends, holidays and vacations, he realized soon enough that MRCR was not just useful for his employees but also a good business enterprise.

During peak season, MRCR accommodates about 1,500 anytime during summer in the morning, and another 1,200 during night time, or about 3,000 customers are accommodated for the whole day.

"It is not to squeeze whatever in family outing because we allow customers to bring their own provisions and the cottages are free," he says.

With P400 as an one can already avail of the amenities inside the resort, like the various spacious hot spring swimming pools of different depths that range from two feet to five feet, the slides with various heights, basketball, volleyball and indoor games.

Spring resorts

The MRCR and the Mahiling Heights are among about 1,000 hot spring resorts that exist in Barangay Pansol, Calamba City, and nearby Los Baños town in Laguna.

The peak days and seasons when customers flock to these in these resort destinations are during summer holidays and weekends which starts Friday afternoon until Sunday evening.

But most of these resorts are available to customers 24 hours daily.

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Chi's Footwear

Like Emma, Carmencita, 60, and younger sister Gorilla took over management of the original Chi's footwear retail store that used to be run by their late parents.

The store serves as an outlet of footwear products manufactured by various large-scale and small-scale local producers in the municipality, like Pia's footwear, Mirkey, Elmen Footwear, Lusilisa Footwear, Nene's, Ferris and Edith's Footwear.

Carmencita recalls that when they started in 1982, there were only a handful engaged in the footwear business, which ranged to a select number of customers.

This was until a doctor, Flora Bonoc, had patients from various Laguna towns coming to doctor to see him because of his "miraculous" healing powers.

Patients from various Laguna towns flocked to Bonoc's clinic that was just across Chi's Footwear Store at Go Tapoc Street in Lilio's town center, very close to the public market.

She observed that about 200 patients came daily to visit the gifted doctor.

"Even those who went already cured from their ailments would return, not to visit Dr. Bonoc but to buy footwear, already available on a small-scale basis," she adds.

Before the physician died several years ago, the industry had already flourished with additional hubs from the province, until massive promotion programs.

Growth

Carmencita and Gorilla say selling footwear products is for sales employees, the store gets busy during peak seasons such as Holy Week, Christmas, passes from mid-to-December.

During weekdays, there are three salesmanagers on every business—unlike during weekends.

From a small shoe space, they now have a two-store footwear building.

The owners sold first they have acquired another building and new vehicles and were able to build a new house.

Ancient looms weave modern haute couture

Narda's group finds tapestry patterns created by looms can also follow tailoring patterns

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—AMERICAN missionaries brought the Igorot their first looms in the early 20th century, hoping to show them "a better way" to produce garments.

Last weekend, Manila Lamppe's Peruvian Flower promoted the new line of fabrics and haute couture of iconic Igorot "diva" weaver Leonarda Cayapan that bears of a break through in the use of those old American looms.

Discovering the traditional tapestry patterns which loom weavers of this town in Cebu put together but fibers into giant wall decor or couch covers, Baguio new designers Eva Monte and Imelda Belena realize that the looms can also follow tailoring patterns.

The average clothes are made by sewing patches of fabrics into dresses and other dress patterns, which are stitched together by needle and thread, says Delima.

But weavers follow the same pattern on looms, he says.

The only stitching required for these hand-woven dresses from sleeves to main jacket parts or gowns, says Gow, who once presided over a Baguio chapter of the Fashion Designers of the Philippines.

Narda first tried to break into the world fashion market two years ago via an ecological fair show in Jayapura, Indonesia.

But the new hopes the new loom skills her company has stumbled onto will restore the corsage industries of the Cordillera.

A loom is a wooden frame that holds thread tight and parallel to each other. The interwoven strands are pushed by American traders and traders in the Cordillera between 1898 and 1926.

The signature skirt designs of Narda's Bandawood Arts & Crafts, which helped just after the displays at Bloomingdale's in New York, are an ancient technique of tie-dyeing threads used for the even older art of weaving.

Weaving is the technique of threading together strands of yarn that are stretched by the loom or between two sticks braced against a weaver's body.

Nida Cayapyap, Narda's 34-year-old cousin-in-law, piloted the loom experiments because of her background in modeling. Narda's weaver in-house designer Alma Pilongo supervised the project.

"This is my first time to weave dress patterns. No weaver had done this because I had to follow the sewing patterns of a real dress when we were all used to weaving plain mats and wall hangings," she says in Filipino.

It took her two to three days to complete all the patterns for a dress. It will hanging, even the more time-hanging as Peruvian Tomas Cabit Peruvian, cut take her a single day.

Delima says they have discovered, too drawback in weaving a complete dress by hand. Sleeves or cuffs or even skirt lengths will have to be done separately. "We weave a unique error while following a measured pattern, he says.

But Narda has approved her team's suggestion to use the new loom skill on her brand of ikat fibers, to derive more whether fashion more than the garments can be produced from these equipment.

Narda has been experimenting since 2003 with natural cotton, burl, jute, silk, exotic fiber, abaca, raffia grass, bonbon, bamboo strips or banana fibers and even colder branches, wild vines, coconut shells and seashells for her tapestries and garments.

There is nothing new about raw fabric because prehistoric weaving involved threading grass fibers.

But Narda, a member of the spiritual movement of Iglesia ni Cristo, says looms must harness raw fabrics to build "wearable healing art."

She says weavers needed to return to use indigenous fabrics because of the country's inability to produce its own homegrown fabrics for industrial use.

Cayapyap had partnered with Italian investors in the Philippine cotton project of Phil Italia, but she dropped from the project due to its overwhelming demand for capital investment.

DARNA DESIGNS. The Narda brand of Baguio-born weaver Leonarda Cayapyap is launching an extension of an old technology.

MODEL Eden in hand-woven dress designed by Dandie Delima and Eva Gow stands beside the glass Narda sculpture that inspired the dress. Weavers have discovered they can create dresses like this straight from their looms.

ABRA CAPUYAN project: born with dyed ikat fabric, piloted the experiment which attempted to use looms to weave a whole garment.

DRESS UP. Designer Eva Gow fits a new loom-woven party jacket on model Eden. The jacket, woven out of abaca, banana and para-rattle strips and cotton will be showcased in Malaysia this weekend.

"I went into fiber manufacturing because cotton threads are getting very expensive. Thread manufacturers are going to China instead and some of the cotton threads have been blended with polyester which destroys our dyeing patterns," she says.

Applying the loom technology to modern dress-making is a boon for her trade, she said, because it increases the value of products all Filipino weavers struggle to sell in an increasingly shrinking market.

Almost all handwoven products we see store open in Europe and America, she says, when there is an untapped demand from growing economies in Asia like China.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Uncle Sam wants you but no liquid or gel onboard, please /D2

As most of you know, I was born to a poor family and only completed high school. Unable to attend college, I only had one dream in my life—to finish school and get my degree'

SOCORRO Cuyco-Ramos is welcomed by Ateneo de Manila University President Bienvenido Nebres, SJ (above), and conferred as Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa (top, right).

Nothing is impossible to the deserving

ON A RECENT Tuesday afternoon, everybody's Nanay Coring attended a special academic convocation at the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, QC.

The woman who founded the National Book Store and shepherded it through crises of war and peace into a business with 73 branches, set aside her usual plain attire and came appropriately dressed for the occasion.

No, she was not there for the graduation of her eldest, Ben and Fred, out of her daughter Cecile, all of which may happened many years ago. And she won't have either for the commencement exercises for any of her nine grandchildren or seven great-grandchildren.

This time Nanay Coring herself was the honoree, to the presence of her children and their own growing families, her employees and her friends, the Ateneo conferred the Doctor of Humanities honorary degree upon Socorro Cuyco-Ramos in this year's Investiture University Awards rites.

The award is given "in recognition of her outstanding contribution to building literacy in a society that will be to stress itself from the oral tradition, her immense courage, firm resolve and unwavering belief in the need for child, hard work and honesty in pursuing any enterprise, thus living out an ideal business ethos, and her total commitment to helping make education afford able, especially to those who have little to like."

The following is Nanay Coring's acceptance speech, the humble disclosure of a humble past and a simple declaration of gratitude for an unmerited prayer; it is a response that can only come from a woman who has lived her life according to the virtues of frugality, integrity and industry.

By Christel Marrick Khaong, Br. Bienvenido Nebres, Board of Trustees, fellow awardees, members of the academic, family and friends, good afternoon.

There are no words to adequately express my gratitude, my family's gratitude and my Montessori Book Store family's gratitude.

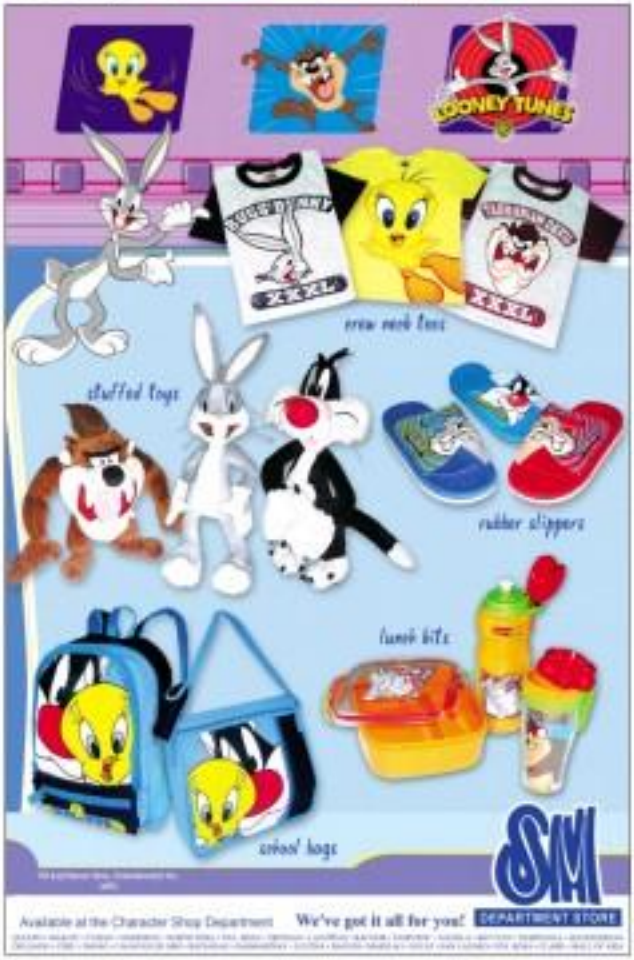
As most of you know, I was born to a poor family and only completed high school. Unable to attend college, I only had one dream in my life—to finish school and get my degree.

Because of this, I vowed to give my children the best education I could afford. By the grace of God, and a little luck, I was able to send my children to the best schools in Manila, with my twin boys attending the Ateneo.

As I observed my boys, they would often correct my pronunciation and were eventually teaching me many things I did not know. So whether I was tutoring my children or standing on my son the big basketball games, I felt like we were all attending the Ateneo together!

They eventually graduated, and with as much pride I watched them

ANNIVERSARIES /2



Golden sketches

Chic del Rosario Francisco's Golden Hands Fashion and Arts School counts noted designer Ivarluski Aseron among its alumni

Text by Charlie V. Moral
Photos by Jim Mata Pascual

FROM HOW THE WAIST FUNCTIONED OVER her sketchbook, suffering to connect the female form on the grids of the white sheet to basic art lessons, it was hard to imagine that Mrs Imelyn was once the disinterested student she said she was the year before.

The 38-year-old was studying morning, dreaming like most of her generation, to one day leave home in pursuit of a high-paying job abroad. But Imelyn's lesser, she soon realized, was elsewhere. In fact, college was a tortuous process that no promise of future dollars earned could make her stay on. After only a year, she quit college and enrolled in a fashion and arts school on Taft Avenue to train. Her parents gave in without much persuasion.

"They said I might as well do something that I liked since every morning" Imelyn says with a glint in her eyes. "I'm enjoying... I want to become a fashion designer, after this. Just transferees, I'll start drawing."

Imelyn's classmate, Shaleen Chua, 20, finished international studies at De La Salle University and transferred to her family's paper business. But once a week for months now, Chua has been attending advanced design in fashion design.

"I didn't realize I would like it this much," she says. Lately she has started making clothes for her friends.

Familiar stories

In her 28 years of running Golden Hands Fashion and Arts School, Elvira "Elsa" del Rosario Francisco is only too familiar with stories like Imelyn's and Chua's. The school founder said discoveries like some anyone else series tales of how her students wound up in her school, and she relishes retelling them.

Francisco says she once had a bevy of home economics teachers enrolled in her school, sent there by the administrators of an exclusive girls' school in Cebu. Once, there was also a bunch of cops who took up dance. Then there were women of big means that sang times and ready to wear brands.

At the moment she has students with their own dress shops, boutiques or subcontractors for various clothing brands. And, how can she forget, Ivarluski Aseron is an alumna of her school. Aseron, of course, started Philippine's noted young designers, when Golden Hands is a "good place to learn the basics."

Francisco may now stand planted with board in her school has gone, but she's the first to admit the primary reason that led to its eventual founding had, in fact, not much to do with the desire to teach as much as a personal love for beautiful clothes.

Growing up with three sisters in the '50s, all of whom loved to dress up, she recalled Clark Leopard Lips to mannequins called up aboard hills that their mother suggested they find a deeper interest in. But that she never "stopped dancing."

She wouldn't be satisfied with the quality that her clothes ended up in the back of racks closets," she says. An aunt suggested that Francisco open up her own dress shop. The idea so appealed to the young woman that she wanted when she was ready, she would do exactly that.

She studied at the Fabulous School of Fashion after graduating with a commerce degree from Montclaire Lyceum Mindanao College. She once opened her dress shop in a gated Makati village, with classes that included expert tailor showcases, but decided to close shop after nine years to establish Golden Hands.

Francisco had found her vocation.

Books and testimonials

Over there, the woman has authored five books on pattern making, sewing and fashion design, all of which, she proudly said, are selling well (sadly 1st Pictorial Book Store) and abroad (the books are sold out for later use, at Avenida cost). The books are used in her school's own lectures.

"I have students who enrolled after they got hold of my books," she says.

The books are easy-to-follow steps for beginners, and it has e-mailed testimonials from readers from as far as Texas in the United States to Trinidad Island in the West Indies.

"I never expected the school to last this long," she shares. "I don't make money. But I feel I need to do this. Not everyone can afford to pay P80,000 each term," which she said is what formal fashion schools in Metro Manila charge.

Golden Hands, the school, is a student of late, occupying two small rooms in a semi-script building on Taft Avenue (tel. 5235247, 5244904; visit goldenhandsfashionarts.ph; e-mail golden_ideas@yahoo.com). The school has five instructors (instructor, is on a recess one basis. Courses take six months to some, and students attend classes at hours convenient to them.

"Some vocational schools have fees private," Francisco explains. "They say six months but they insist on only 240 hours spread throughout the period. With us, you come in whenever you can, for as long as you like, until you finish the course within the allotted period." Unlike regular schools, Golden Hands accepts new students throughout the year.

DRAWING BOARD. Devon Cotoneste (right), a Golden Hands alumnus, had worked in the Middle East for several years before he decided to come home for good. He now teaches fashion illustration in his old school.

CLASS ACT. Hazel Velasco, (fig.) Imelyn and Shaleen Chua in their fashion design class

ARTS AND CRAFTS. The sewing class

Flexible schedules

For students like Chua, the setup is convenient. "I'm only able to leave work once a week. The flexible schedules suit me."

"The quiet happy my daughter learned of this school," says Jose Rafaelito, a new student. Rafaelito is a major seller's home branches (IS where she and her doctor husband are based. "I was getting bored at home since all my kids are grownups. With my free time, I want to learn how to make things to decorate the house."

Rafaelito Baladi also is rather entrepreneurial sensing small design concerns, drawing students like Milan native Roland Velasco, whose family is in the pifia fabric business.

"Competition is tough," says Velasco, a former pharmacy student, "so you need to know how you can keep up."

Francisco devoutly stresses the importance of fashion arts in the country's economy, citing its prominent factory workers displaced by the influx of cheap clothing from China.

"When they know pattern making, they can accept made-to-order services. They are assured of steadiness," she explains.

There, Francisco is thinking hard about the future of her school in some of her three children seem poised to take over when she retires.

"I don't know," she laughs dryly. "But right now I'm just happy I'm doing something worthwhile. My maternal grandmother established in me the importance of only doing in our country. That's my motivation, especially as I see that my students are going somewhere."

Email the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

DREAM WEAVERS. The schoolteacher and her teaching staff with their students

NEEDLEWORK. Francisco's Elvira guide Rosales to pattern-making and fashion design for hobbyists and beginners

Religion causes tension in 4-year relationship

DEAR EMILY,

I have been reading your column and learned a lot from it. I prided those who had been here and contributed in their relationship, not knowing that I wouldn't be spared from this—alone.

My girlfriend and I have been on for almost four years. Our relationship is almost perfect except for one thing: we come from different faiths.

At first, I tried to attend Mass with her but, lately, I've been feeling that I should attend my own religious worship. She constantly asks me to go to church with her and when I don't, she gets angry.

My friend tells me to stay in my faith. We've gone through many trials and circumstances before, except this matter of religion. We love each other but I'm just confused about how we could settle this situation.

TED

I am the wrong person to ask about religion. I am brash enough when it comes to matters of faith. God is God is God is God, in whatever name, sound, form and language He is packaged.

The best preliminary your love for each other, not have a major violent part and stubborn turns in your when the other one to go to church with her.

Obviously, this thing you call love is one inherent and you look have an unspoken rule about religion that clearly screams "what it means to unite and relate it you to you?"

EMILY'S POST
Emily A. Marcelo

'Our relationship is almost perfect except for one thing: we come from different faiths'

Why don't you have an honest conversation and lay down your rules of engagement—primarily how to accept your different religions? If this "only" thorn cannot be resolved, why don't you go separately to whichever house of worship suits both desires?

Still it will you both to be separated for a few hours in one day? Does your girlfriend feel that your love is diminished when you go to your own place of worship?

Talk to something that cannot be negotiated or concealed. If you do get married, have a ceremony at both your churches.

You've already bothering about religion even before marriage. Can you imagine how this issue of Faith will explode once the children start coming?

You may want to think and rethink hard before entering your relationship further.

Never underestimate the importance of petty quarrels. You may consider them a small matter now, but think about when you are married and how these little irritants may chip away at the very foundation of something that is supposed to last a lifetime.

Try opening wide your minds and hearts. It's incredibly difficult to communicate when nobody wants to listen.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Submit lifestyle or send your stories to become. Listen to Mr. Blue with Emily on the program "Radyo na Magkaiba," 7 (5-6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzMM 1350.

AWARDEES with Fr. Nilario and Jesuit provincial superior Fr. Daniel Patrick Huang, SJ (center): Deacon Mario Van Luna representing Fr. Charlito Cinto Columbres (Bukas Palad Award), Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit (Luz-in-Domini), Canon Ramon Tuello T. Bangayan (Division Award), Graune Panoglinan, son of Dr. Raymundo Panoglinan (Gawaramanan Service), Elvira Lopez Bautista (Parangal Lingkod Sambayanan), Loarice Cuillan and Marilou Diaz Abaya (Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi)

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Pamangin C1

HAPAP: Caring with Fr. Nilario and her family: son Ben with wife Virgie, daughter Carlo with husband Mike Lizarza, and son Fred with wife Prexy

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Feast day of Ireland's Lady of Knock

IRELAND CELEBRATES the feast day of Our Lady of Knock on Aug. 21. On this day in 1879, Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock parish church.

The apparition was witnessed by 15 people. The first to see it is the county's Mayo.

"Our Lady of Knock is to Ireland as Our Lady of Lourdes is to France," says Sally Lamaze who visited the Marian shrine in 2003. She asked the Virgin to help her open a medical clinic for Filipino mothers going overseas. Sally promised the Virgin of Knock that she would name the clinic after her.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcena

Our Lady of Knock Medical Clinic is at the ground floor of Rizal Tower on Shaw St., Mokat. Framed photos of the Virgin hang on the walls of the clinic.

Mila Quijano, who left recently for Kuwait, and I visited Sally's clinic and saw she really fulfilled her promise.

Mila, on the other hand, fulfilled her dream to visit all eight places where the Virgin appeared. Knock was the last place she visited.

In 1879, the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the Knock parish church

From Knock, she flew to Rumoni, Belgium, to work to volunteer during the launch of the 75th anniversary of the first apparition in Rumoni of the Virgin of the Poor. The celebration is set for Jan. 31 in the Cathedral of Liege.

Visits

Pope John Paul II visited Knock in 1979 during the centenary of the apparition. Mother Teresa went there in 1993. One and a half million people visit the shrine every year.

Shrines

There are Marian shrines in Italy, Spain, Portugal and France. A two-week pilgrimage organized by Ephesus Travel includes Guadalupe, the village where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children and asked them to tell the people to say the Holy Rosary, go to Confession, hear Mass and receive Holy Communion. Call 526-1221 or text 09173950267.

Congress

The World Apostolate of Shrines (WAS), formerly known as the Blue Army, will hold its third Congress Aug. 22-24, at the Sentrik Cenvo Lahug, Cebu City.

The activity aims to spread and intensify the Fatima apostolate by organizing and strengthening WAP divisions in Asia and the unity of Asian WAP national divisions.

The national spiritual director, Most Rev. Angel N. Lagdameo, will give the keynote address, while the international president of the organization, professor Americo Lopes Dias from Peniche Rita, will talk on Blessed Francisco and Blessed Jacinta Marto as models of perfection. Delegations from Switzerland, India, Korea and Singapore are expected.

For Aetas

Healing sojourner Marilu Hugo Garcia will open her solo exhibit, "Take time to smell the flowers," on Aug. 28 at the Limbank Tower, Shaw de Roxas, Makati. Part of the proceeds will go to the "Feed for the Body and Food for the Soul" program for Aetas in Zambales, some 1,000 Aetas will be fed every three months. Exhibit ends Oct. 3. Call 555-4853.

OUR LADY of Knock, patroness of Ireland

Another Sojourner is the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry, which plans to build a retreat house and formation center in the Subic Free Zone. Bethesda was founded in 2000 by Fr. Teodilo Bacala, Dr. Grecia Martinez, head of the ministry's department, St. Luke's Medical Center, and Marilyn Garcia.

Bethesda held recently a successful three-day retreat on healing the family tree at the St. Therese Sanctuary Chapel in Subic.

Senator Lim from Cabalagan, Bataan, a retreat survivor, flew to Manila then took the bus to Subic after reaching the retreat center in the evening. She said she wanted to invite Marilu and her group to hold a healing retreat in Cabalagan. If she has the resources, she also likes to set up a healing center there.

Putting up the money to bring the Bethesda group to Cabalagan is a positive step. Call Renata at 09163018058.

At least three busloads of parishioners from Cambobo parishes joined the retreat organized by Fr. Isidro Moore, chaplain of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). Speakers were Sally Santos, Dr. Grecia Martinez and Marilu.

Outreach

Sorsibia siblings Drs. Eduard Sarabia, Cristine Sarabia-Flores and Baby Sarabia-Morales did free eye refraction for poor children and adults at the Casa Providencia in Pamplona, Las Piñas, Cavite-based. Free eyeglasses were provided by a Spanish team brought in by Brother Cayanguis. Many people were treated that day.

Sarabia Optical is also helping the Eye Bank Foundation-Cancilleria in Barcelona on the institution's effort to provide the gift of sight to Filipinos, through cornea transplants. Dr. Magnolia Pacillo is president.

Help needed

Despite her father's meager salary as mechanic and janitor of Trinity Church, Maria Kenneth Gonzalez took up nursing in the Adventist University. Now on her third year, she needs help to continue. Please text 09166351995. Thank you for your kindness.

Birth anniversary

Mako Olivarez, both clergy and laity will gather at the Monumento of St. Thomas of the Child Jesus Chapel in Tayabas, Quezon, to mark the birthday of Bishop Olivarez at 9 a.m., Aug. 29. Cardinal Rosales and several bishops are expected. In remembrance Mass. MCGF accepts for vocations among women aged 16.

Text Sister Elizabeth at 0999-2460974.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

A CLASS OF ITS OWN. New service in Philippine Airlines First Class and Mabuhay Class is rolled out during ceremonies commemorating the first crossing of the Pacific by an Asian airline.

New transpacific service revives romance of historic flight

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60th anniversary this year of the First Transpacific Crossing by an Asian Airline, Philippine Airlines has launched One by One in its First Class and Mabuhay Class Service for its transpacific flights, starting with PAL's evening flights to Los Angeles.

Adopting a style that is flexible and modern, the new service differentiates PAL from other Asian service carriers by emphasizing the combined western and Asian traits of the Filipinos, giving off a "Left to Itself" feel is reflected in the airline's dining and other services.

The service commemorates July 31, 1946, when a Philippine Airlines DC-4 took off from the Nielson Airport in Makati and landed in Oakland, California, 41 hours later, with stops in Guam, Wake Island, Johnston Atoll and Honolulu. The flight earned for PAL the distinction of being the first Asian airline to cross the Pacific Ocean.

One by One emphasizes PAL's personalized touch. The new in-flight meal service methodology sees the "a la carte" service where passengers can select their own meal from a variety of dishes.

Each dish is exquisitely plated by PAL's cabin crew, giving each meal a distinctive and tailored touch, in the tradition of fine dining restaurants.

"On Demand" service allows passengers to partake their meals anytime during the flight.

A table landscape captures the sights, sounds and feel of the Philippine archipelago. Finely crafted by Bordallo Ingos, Ltd., PAL's new Coastal Collection Dining Ware features soft waves and intricate details of the Philippine shores.

PAL's Signature Dishes are specially developed by executive chef Jun Hidalgo. He has transformed exotic popular local staples such as Inasal and adobo into exotic dishes exclusively for PAL.

PAL's classic Asian

NEW D2

MEMORABILIA from the first PAL transpacific flight include reproductions of photos clippings and plans

JAMS Gustilo, Philippine Airlines president and chief operating officer; Lucio Tan, PAL chair and CEO; and Cleveland Charles, acting economic counselor of US embassy, presenting a copy of July 31, 1946, newspaper with headline "Philippine Airlines Crossing the Pacific" PHOTOGRAPHS

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Smart Trio

EXTREME event drivers Kurt Busch and Jeff Gordon at Disney's MGM

Theme parks all the way

Text and photos by Chelo Bataol Formoso

Walt Disney's vast kingdom in Orlando heads the list of premiere tourist destinations in this central Florida city

IN THE SPRING WHEN ALL OF America shakes off its winter woes, the Travel Industry of America (TIA) takes advantage of the season's spectacular beauty and holds its annual tourism powwow to cultivate interest in the United States as a destination. And every year—whether it's been the worst of times or the best of times business-wise—Northwest Airlines sponsors a group of Filipino travel journalists to cover the event.

The 2006 version was hosted by Orlando, Florida, the only American city to have done so for five times now. Because it is home to Walt Disney theme parks and luxurious resorts, Orlando had little trouble settling in over a thousand tour buyers from 70 countries, as well as travel industry players right in the US itself.

According to travel industry reports, 40 percent of travelers are likely to take children or grandchildren on their longest trip. With that kind of prospect, Orlando aimed to gain everything in hosting the travel conference. With the top three theme parks—Disney World, Universal and Sea World—calling it home, Orlando is easily America's No. 1 family destination. It is also the second largest convention facility in the US.

Putting on the Ritz

Part of Orlando's pride and joy is the Ritz Carlton Orlando Grande Lakes, which served as home for the Philippine delegation. On their second day at this beautifully land-scaped hotel, golden cars and Sea trucks dotted the grounds. The scene turned cinematic as the premises were covered by snow-to-black

EXPEDITION Everest, newest attraction at Disney World carves down a snow mountain in Animal Kingdom.

for the arrival of, believe it or not, US President George W. Bush, who was going to speak at another conference. Yes, they just be a Bubsa fan, but you have to concede that he has good taste in hotels, or at least the hoteliers do.

Luxurious is the first word that comes to mind when a guest enters any of the rooms at this Lake-ringed hotel. Tile hallways allow you close quilting near sound, but if your interests do not overlap to golf, you can still avail of their on-your-way by visiting the Ritz Carlton spa. The largest in Central Florida, it is equipped with fitness center, private lap pool, cafe, meditation room, and his and hers spa areas with steam rooms, saunas and whirlpools. The spa menu has managers and body scrubs, menu for couples and solo guests, and such pampering as aqua latte foot massage, citrus magnolia soufflé pregnancy massage, foot lemon lime scalp and body treatment, among delicious sounding luxuries.

But go for real food for all reasons. The $15 plus plus breakfast at The Vineyard Grill is filling, but on cuter notes, the breakfast buffet at $27 plus plus is perfect for the hearty eater, and the dinner menu offers such interesting specialties that kinda make you homesick, such as steamed Florida Clams with Chorizo, Fiesta Peppers and Tomato Coriander Broth.

Marketplace

The Orlando Convention Center, this year's modern and vast venue, was the perfect venue to accommodate the bee dances Marketplace. The never ceases of the annual event of yearning; the marketplace was filled with booths where suppliers could sell hotels, restaurants, resorts, transportation services and other tour products. Travel agents from around the world visited these booths to learn more about what America had to offer tourists beyond Hollywood and Broadway.

Among the most popular booths is the Tiffany booth, which gave away free baubles for travel to the major American cities included in its program. The cities of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Hollywood (Toronto, too, although it's in Canada, and near, Atlanta) are each honored with a Cityhaus booklet packed with tickets to the best museums, theme parks, historical sites, restaurants and other attractions, as well as transport and sightseeing services. Each booklet is sold to the public at half of what it would normally cost to buy the tickets individually. Even better value for money, you don't have to rush in line if you have a CityPass ticket.

There are all sorts of freebies for the press every year but the best of all perks is always the media tour. It makes sense for the powwow organizers to take tourist writers on a familiarization tour of the host city instead of leaving them cooped up in the convention hall all day.

CUEST speaker US Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez

2006 POW WOW opens with ribbon cutting by Delta Airlines' Scott Sloan; Disneland's Mark McHugh, Orlando/Orange County CVB's William Peeper, Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts' Jay Rasulo, TIA's Roger Dow, and Orange County's George Boston.

HWB general manager for the Philippines, Todd A. Anderson

Family dest

This annual F
of sightseeing
haven, many
mix with wild
around an hour
ranch. Also on
Kennedy Space
stops at the Ma
ter and the sha
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But for a Flo
entertainment a
in the premiere
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A new service
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accessible on fo
park. It may be
a Disney hotel,
yourself...take a
back to the re
shows.

Northwest Air
Media Hotel, C
Mall amenities

Rockowitz and Mary Stevenson all in "Lights, Motor, Action!" shows at

CLOCKWISE, from top, left: Between sets the filming cameras set up for Carter's PINK's Glue Corsages with pancakes Tanya Lutz said by Phantom dolphin touch the heart with acrobatics at Sea World.

Organized by the tri-[illegible] County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the hour-long show designed to explain Orlando's natural [illegible] to tourists, as well as [illegible] city, cultural and social offer-

Better safe than sorry is new mantra

"Airplane travel is no longer a way of satisfying your need for your constant calories."

So quipped comic call-in on subject travel survey in the United States, and in time even more than ever. After the endless hours that passengers have to spend in airports going through strict checks for ownership, security and more recently, they are being overtop looking as suspicious as they do in their passport photos.

Even before London authorities ordered pilot to bench passenger planes bound for various destinations when [illegible] this fall was punishing enough. In the spring it took an 20-hour to get to Orlando, Florida, as [illegible] extra security procedures, security checking at the Belgrade, Narita and Essen airports since every US-bound flight was screening our luggage at the Orlando airport, a sad case of sure bad time-stayed. The same thing happened on our trip to New York the same holiday as set back the US Transportation Security Administration is not making a habit of this. Even and, of course, a notion of baggage inspections from the friendly TSA. But said said our baggage is inspected "to protect you and our fellow passengers."

Here are passengers have to gotta laugh some of the [illegible] problems. While to and of Orlando-area airline security crisis-[illegible] passengers a share of the hassles and have taken the low end of living, airline companies and passengers can do nothing but, as they say, grin and bear it. Below are those sorry to the new travel [illegible] months.

To guide passengers through rush and less stressful passage, here are some reminders on the TSA's new requirements. Check out your own case for more information.

- If you really want to leave through security, consider checking-in at your bag early.
- No liquids, gels, lotions or similar items in any carry-on luggage, including [illegible] cups, shampoo, mouthwash and perfume. Bottles in such items in the luggage you're checking in. If for any reason you discover a bottle or non-solid or items in your personal [illegible] passing through security, dump them in the trash in front them away.
- Avoid traveling with sharply if you can. Pencil, you can bring baby formula or food, [illegible] [illegible]. Be aware, however, that authorities can deem any [illegible] without requiring these sensitive substances to [illegible] other inspection to another level.
- You can hand carry your prescription medicine but make sure the name on the bottle is the same as the name on the [illegible] ticket. Even non-prescription medicines if "unlabeled" are allowed [illegible] of no [illegible] 4 oz per container. Also, stay on liquids or gels for diabetic passengers not to exceed 8 ounce container. Voluntarily present these items for inspection at the security checkpoint you don't want any delay.
- Don't [illegible] money, jewelry, [illegible], cellphone or any products containing bombs, [illegible] or gels from the outbound Day Four attachment you're [illegible] a connecting flight because these will not be allowed on carry-on and will be confiscated.
- If, after the security checkpoint you decide to buy, get [illegible] you cannot [illegible] what last day, go ahead and won't be allowed [illegible] flight.
- Have [illegible] or your [illegible] will be asked to remove your shoes in security checkpoints now. If they cause you to your shoes [illegible].
- Get to the airport earlier than you've been told for pre-[illegible] days. International flight passengers should [illegible] airport three hours prior to departure. Only a usually crowded airport [illegible]. Rain and [illegible], allow yourself no more than [illegible].

"Please accept these delays to be [illegible] welcome [illegible]," says the [illegible] and better believe it.

[illegible] — Ann [illegible] contributor

PREFLIGHT at Malmo Airport in Malmö Sweden ago

INTERIOR of the DC-4, maybe military planes that were PAC-I first aircraft

New transpacific service revives . . .

Front page 01

Calvin, Kansas, the world over, is the part of the metal.

The total service consists of seven (counting), five and cold appetizers, soup, salad, main course, dessert, cheese plate and more. The service likewise offers PAC-style cocktail selection.

One by One was designed with the assistance of Federico Controlling, S.L., an Australian-based airline service consultant.

"One by One is a very significant service and product innovation undertaken by PAL. It . . . defines the ultimate customer experience. The service is one of the most distinctive and customer-friendly in modern aviation," says Sonia Kim, president of PAL.

"It is timely for us to introduce our new and modern equipment and a totally new, elegant and personalized service on our First Class and Mabuhay Class services," says Pedro J. Cano, PAL vice president for marketing support.

One by One is offered on LAX 09/10 and 19/20 evening flights, and will be offered on Los Angeles, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Vancouver, Seattle and Melbourne flights by next year.

PAC's fin-to-flight, a timeline

BOARDING time at Manila Airport

Healthy living starts here

lowers blood cholesterol

helps regulate blood sugar levels

helps control body weight

Prevents constipation and promotes bowel regularity

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Introducing FiberMate. A blend of psyllium proven to cleanse your body of harmful elements. For a cleaner, healthier you. So, drink up now.

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A quality product of Unilab

THE FLOOR space of the Crowne Suite in Kapper Row unveiled condensation in or the cool hotel's—112 square meters

Crowne Plaza has reserved two floors for the exclusive use of discerning travelers who want more than just efficient service

COMPLIMENTARY high-speed Internet connection is available in every room

New club promises royal treatment for 'members'

By Linda B. Bolido

ALL BUSINESS AND EFFICIENCY is good.

But if you are a frequent traveler who spend a large chunk of time in hotel rooms, there comes a time, no doubt, when business—like efficiency begins to pall and you wish for a little more personalized service, a little pampering, as well as access to facilities and amenities you have at home and/or your office.

At Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila in Ortigas, you can now get that special treatment if you join the "club." And there's even no need to apply for membership.

For an additional charge, you can have your booking upgraded from a regular hotel room to a room or suite in Crowne Club.

The two-floor club offers special accommodation for discerning travelers who do not mind paying for the extra attention, the more personalized service, and the additional amenities and top-of-the-line facilities that help make a stay in a place almost as comfortable and pleasant as being back home.

Crowne Plaza converted floors fifteen and sixteen into the Crowne Club with rooms and suites ranging in size from 35 to 52 square meters.

The jewel of the crown, so to speak, is the Crowne Suite, which is almost a one-bedroom apartment with its own spacious dining and living rooms, stylish vanity area, two bathrooms with a walk-in closet. The bedroom has a floor space bigger than some modest condominium or low-cost housing units—112 square meters.

Comforts of home

Every room or suite has its own safe, tea or press, bath robes, and three telephone units, among others. You can also have an aromatherapy bonus; if you so wish, or enjoy a 15-minute foot reflexology or tension relief hand massage from duty-free Epic.

Each floor has its own valet or room attendant, on call 24 hours, and the exclusive services of the Club Lounge concierge, an all-around information resource prepared to handle everything you may request from making dinner reservations or providing business

Kayang-kayang Pasarapin Ang Bawat Araw

2006

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

Anchor Family Spread

Bagong Anchor Family Spread. Ang linamnam na magpapasarap sa bawat araw ng buong pamilya. Kayang-kaya sa halagang P37.50* lang.

*Suggested Retail Price

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

PEAR-GONZALES

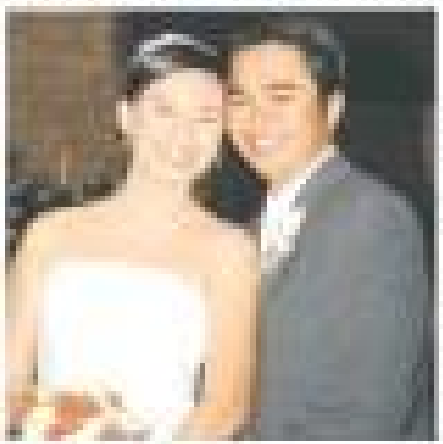
Lt/C. Jose S. Pilar, son of Oscar and Lucrecia Pilar, and Nadia V. Gonzales, daughter of Reynaldo and Miriam Gonzales, recently exchanged vows at San Beda's Parish Church in Mendiola.

VILLACINA-SAMSUDIN

Jason P. Villacina, son of Joselito and Gloria Villacina, will wed Margie Samsudin, daughter of Rolando and Linda Samsudin, at 4 p.m., Sept. 16, at San Fernando de Dilao Parish (Pasig Church). Fr. Benigno de Castro will officiate. Reception will be held at Beacon's Garden, Manila.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and your daughter along with a photo of the couple and a photo of the bridal gown, if any to the Inquirer, 20 Roosevelt Corner Ortigas Ave. Libis Mandaluyong City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and in accord to the calendar.



OSTIQUE-MARQUEZ

Justine Ole Benedicto Marquez, daughter of Justino IV and Concepcion Marquez recently married Joseph Bernard Ostique, son of Edgar Sr. and Purificacion Ostique, at the Sto. Niño Parish Church, Malabon.

VITERBO-GOSON

Rhea G. Viterbo, son of the late Fr. George Viterbo and Marilyn Gregorio Viterbo, will wed Marlene Gerene, daughter of lawyer Felipe and Teresa Goson, on Aug. 27. Reception will be at the Manila Polo Club.

HAMIDIAN-VALDE

Ali Hamidian and Shiela Valde were recently married in a civil rites ceremony at the Manila City Hall. A beach party at Pandacan Las Playa, Paranaque, Quezon was held later to celebrate the wedding.

Amid announcements of help wanted, things for sale and even obit, two INQUIRER employees realized what they had was for keeps

Finding love in the classifieds

NEWLYWEDS Joel and Sharon (nee Rebus) Macasaet

WITH THE MAID and matron of honor, the bride's best friends since college Ana Abreu and Jasmine Camiguing

By Marlen D. Salazar

THE PERSONALIZED WEDDING invitation could be all—how they found love amid obstacles, and announcements of things on sale or for lease.

Sharon Wendy Rebus and Joel Macasaet met when they both worked at the Inquirer's Classified Ads.

She is now the editorial assistant of Executive Specialist and Bluebirds & Orchestra in the advertising department. But it was at the Classified Ads section, where they both worked, that they realized their value: they had met "for keeps."

After nine years, Rebus and Macasaet got married on the same day the bride's parents celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary.

It was a joyful and intimate occasion, shared only with relatives and very close friends. The ceremony was held at the Immaculate Heart of the Sacred Heart with Fr. Louie Lozano (the), SJH, officiating.

Rebus and his five brothers (she's the youngest and the only girl in a household of seven) and two nephews (who took the place of her two departed brothers) on the aisle in the stalked with parents Edward and Alice.

As the bride walked down the aisle, the Choral Prelude sang.

All songs in the ceremony and reception were personally chosen by the bride, most of them from her favorite choral albums.

The bride glowed in a simple yet elegant gown by John Abad. Her entourage wore peach-pink gowns. Rebus' bouquet of dark-pink roses was complemented by the colorful roses and garlands provided by Vermont Flowers for all the women and flower girls in the entourage.

Principal sponsors were Alfonso and Gwendolyn Francisco (represented by Ben and Agnes Bhandoval, Pelli Arjona, Benito Serrano, Donald Lim, Bernelito de la Cruz, Rhogie Quimpo-Espino and Imelda Limlo).

The bride's best friends since college at St. Paul Manila, Mary Janelle Camiguing and Mia Ana Abreu, were matron and maid of honor, respectively.

Macasaet's best men were his brother Sergio and Jong Villaruz, a good friend and fellow member in the Manila Dragons Dragon Boat Rowing Team.

Rebus' nieces, Hilda and Ina Rebus, and the ring bearer Mikhaeldo Gonzalez (a child of longtime friend Jimmy Lorenzo of the Inquirer, Joseph Fox and O.J. Rebus.

Candle, veil and cord sponsors were the bride's cousins Judy Rebus, Mitch Angeles, Celine Montero and the groom's aunts Isabelle Edward Vergara, John Antonnel and Marina Bajan.

As they read their vows, Rebus paused to add sentiment, overcome by emotion.

The newlyweds not only nurtured a relationship but a friendship that made their bond stronger.

Rebus was the constant companion of Macasaet in his outdoor activities, the "official" videographer and photographer of the Manila Dragons Team, at Rizal Bonangalan, the team's manager, said in his speech. (He joined the team in China where the MD Men's Crew were first runners-up and third runners-up, respectively, in two separate dragon boat races in Guangzhou and Shanghai.)

Meanwhile, on the other hand, supported Rebus' endeavors, accompanying her to concerts and plays.

The reception was held at the YMCA Function Rooms. The maid and matron of honor were masters of ceremonies.

Rebus surprised her husband by playing David Bowman's "Bees for You" on piano. Hilda and Ina serenaded the newlyweds with "In your Eyes."

A PowerPoint presentation on their years together was shown. It was a collection of photographs taken on out-of-town trips, family gatherings and other memorable occasions.

For the traditional first dance of newlyweds, Rebus' brothers Dave and Fredy played the piano and sang "An Affair to Remember," their parents' favorite song.

The joyous event was recorded and documented by renowned wedding photographer Chito Ferdinand for posterity.

DEEP in the arms of the two men she loves most: Dad...

WITH THE GROOM'S immediate family

...and Joel

THE BRIDE performs a special number for her groom.

THE NEWLYWEDS with principal sponsors Agnes B. Montero (proxy for Gwendolyn R. Francisco), Rhogie Quimpo-Espino, Estrella S. de la Cruz, Imelda B. Limlo, Donald Patrick L. Lim, Bernard B. Bolanos, Ben Hernandez (for Alfonso Francisco Jr.) and Pelli B. Arjona

JOEL and Sharon

WITH FRIENDS from the dragon boat rowing team, Manila Dragons

LADIES in waiting: Mandy Taboada, Fiona Dinglo, Barbara Abadia, Christina Bruines, Mia Bermoven, Tessie Higuiero, Sarina Medio, Anna Maria Sagud and Janis Pena

Family jewels, both real and imagined

From page 34

ator to latest collection. He once converted the Makati Shangri-La's rear lobby entrance into an elegant, white draped dining hall. Two months ago, he creatively weaved his magic wand and made the Ayala Museum Lobby and Lee Garden into a chic, chill-out lounge party place with multisensory music and cuisine revisited by top DJ Manolet Ibarra.

Sit-down affair

Recently he transformed the Shang Palace into the "sapphire room" just for one night for the launch of Bulgari's latest Rosette Collection. The Makati Shangri-La's famed Chinese restaurant was nowhere to be found. Instead, guests entered an exhibit hall and enjoyed a beautiful, sit-down dinner party with a special menu prepared by executive chef **Christopher Bonnice**.

In the Asia Museum event, the new Rosette Collection was revealed, with models wearing exquisite pieces in gold combined with white, brilliant-cut diamonds. Amid rows of extra paintings of the "Statement magnifico" from the 1970s to '90s, guests marveled at the exhibit and the beautiful jewelry.

Fashion choreographer **Jackie Aquino** supervised the extravaganza's feel of the jewelry with his direction for the exhibit. Understandably I totally missed that part of the event since I was late to attend. But I caught the cocktailing party at the Zen Garden, with heavy cocktails in a marvelous spread by Manila Peninsula and flowers centered by Makati Shangrila's LEIA Flower Shop.

So in all Bulgari events, most guests were never without a champagne glass or cocktail drink in hand. Future Trade International specialties: mouthwatering drinks, as guests enjoyed #mouthwings Cabernet red wine, Chardonnay for white wine, Wine Zinfandel rose wine and Bombay Sapphire gin all night long.

Generous mood

From one collection to another, Bulgari Jewelry is always presented in its dinner-ring dinner in the most extraordinary fashion. Yes it, that is's creative brains always manages to work up stunning venues and excellent dinner. Good thing, too, because how does one entice husbands to buy jewelry for their wives and not their mistresses? The key thing is to get them to attend the dinners and events themselves!

Master emcee Marvic Sotto Un makes sure guests are having a great time and Stephanie hosts a continuous flow of liquor, so when the collection is displayed, their wives have them hook, line and stinker. I think Dennis became that as well, to be wise to avoid American rehab. I can but my babies at last and say, "Honey, do you love me?"

As the Sapphire Room, my fun table had 6 squirt couples like Abe and Nitz Licaros and **Renato** and **Khaviera Enriquez** already enjoying the poached scallops and baby kinoy appetizers. As the main course of pork roasted Red Snapper accompanied by Penfolds Bin-Koonga Hill Shiraz Cabernet was served, Bernice finally arrived, right in time for the unveiling of the Rosette Collection. He ended up being seated beside Nitz, who gave him all the right suggestions on how to make me happy.

Top models, in stunning head-to-toe jewelry by Toni and Guy Salon (tel. 8128595), soon displayed the brilliant collection of jewelry and watches. The Rosette collection had diamonds surrounded by colorful, semi-precious stones set in circular patterns that I really liked, so I am more into colors and less designer.

They also had more streamlined pieces in white gold and diamonds, but the colored pieces were more appealing to me. With my birthday just around the corner, I wonder if my husband had enough champagne that evening so that he would not end up giving me another Bulgari to add to my limited-run jewelry collection.

And while he is at it, he should remember that we have two daughters to pass on those heirlooms to!

E-mail her at angelica.red@inquirer.com.ph

PRETTY ladies Bethel Vinegra, Nina Ysmael and Nikki Carlos

HAPPY couple Mudrasz and Renato Enriquez

NOW DJ Manolet Ibarra

2004 Cartier is remembered as a Bulgari Lounge.

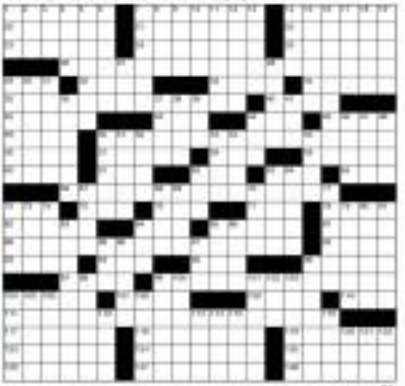
SHAMONAE leaves Michael Meung and Cathy Yap

ROSETTE collectors Vicki Belo and Joey Sarmiento

A SWEET affair: Chiddy Rivera, Arlene Benedicto, Isabel Bendor

LOUIE and Molly Mitra

Sunday Crossword



answer on page E4

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

A RIDE

DIGNITARIES: Italian Ambassador Paloma Aviso Fortini, Zenaida Fortunato Sen, Linda Madrigal Pabalo, Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz, Patrick Juatco

GLAMOR: Ladies modeling the Rosario Collection

POSTCARD: Mel Librero, Mario Kodjak and Sev Macaso

YOUNG artisans Cassiopeia Bean, Laura Baja, Grace Baja and Ricky Delgado

Family jewels, both real and imagined

My vast collection of sparklers actually comes from the different faux jewelers and accessory makers all over the Philippines

LUTZ and Alexandra Horach

DAVID and Maria Bautista

SAPPHIRE Tessa architects, Stacy W and DPWBulgari Carrick and Jay Pharoon

THE MAIN predicament I have when it comes to accessorizing for luxury jewelry launches is finding the proper gloves to wear. The only real gloves I possess are my engagement and wedding rings, both from my dear half-hand Dewars. My vast collection of sparklers actually comes from the different faux jewelers and accessory makers all over the Philippines.

After the birth of my first daughter, Aemilia, I sort of made a personal commitment to start buying real jewelry, so that I would have something of real value that I could pass on to my daughters. Eight years and counting and daughter later, what we still refer to when we say "the family jewels" are what my husband's mother pointed and inspired.

In fact, the contents of my safe range from passports to the kids' baby teeth, but not vanity and timepieces. Last year my mother-in-law's collection grew by one, thanks to a Bulgari birthday ring from Dennis. Although he has quite an excellent eye for jewelry, he feels more confident when Bulgari has most Wonder Bulgaris a chance to give his support and love. It's great to have a second opinion, especially for guys who don't have much clue about finding the right piece but would like to send the message of love across.

A good rule of thumb might be that the quantity of love is directly proportional to the size of the clean. But with Mom in mind, you can be guided more on quality (perfect flaw) and detail (style).

Of all the contemporary luxury jewelry shows, Bulgari always presents the most impressive events, with Mom attending to all the detailed elements—from the placement of the jewelry and its classic icon homeless to the flower arrangements, the models' designs to outfits. The conceptual media and even the cocktail drinks. The signature ingredient of his parties is the comforting sparkling bubbly, from Moet & Chandon of course, and to those in search of something tastefully bohemian glasses of Jacksons Vodka.

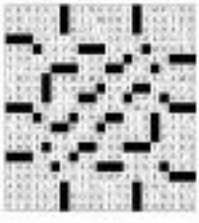
Finally, he manages to know from different fashion and stylish venues for Bulgari to pre-

EMILY H.

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdez

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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• Former Ms. Filipinas finalist
Melanie Caragan
San Pablo
• Mother of three
• Wife of a businessman
• Member of DSWD's People Brigade
Melody Menesterial
Lucena
• Mother of two
• Scholar of Barangay Nutrition Program
• Trainer at local DSWD's downsizing course
Rosela Dalusay
Baguio
• Mother of three
• Wife of an Air Force officer
Melanie Cabe
San Fernando
• Mother of one
• Wife of a ex-engineer
• Civil engineer by profession
Marilyn Gomez
Batangas
• Mother of three
• Wife of an OFW
• Student of BS Education
Rolinda Faltado
Legazpi
• Mother of one
• Wife of a businessman
• Graduate of BS Computer Science
Rosario Legado
Naga
• Mother of three
• Wife of a university registrar
• Educator at University of Sto. Isabel Naga
Cecilia Amparado
ALASKA
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bernie G. Velarde

Regal woos young turks

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

REGAL FILMS PRODUCERS Lily Monteverde and daughter Rosalie Monteverde-Teo have been very vocal about the fact that young filmmakers are now in charge of most of the projects at the 43-year-old film company.

In the past six months, Regal has been working with new and/or young directors—Rahyan Carlos ("Tuwalisin"), Joel Lamangan ("White Lady"), Mark Reyes ("Encantos"), Jun Lana ("Shift") and Mike Tuviera ("OT").

Both Mahl's duties cooking up projects with Regular Pictures, a company he set up with fellow director Chito Roño and Monteverde's son Dondon, involve stories set here—Cesbuy Films' anchor Mahl and Roño, as well as under Every Tues. ("Binibining B"), Tupel Law and Richard Bonoan. True to working on a low money, his fellow up to his chin, but "White Lady."

Three of the four Regal entries in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival are tagged by young indies: Quark Henares ("Project Bwogs"), Lore ("Mano Po 5: Gua Ai Di") and Honorers-Turners-Cortes ("Shake, Rattle & Roll 8"). Among the MMFF entries, only "Donsol Zaimmadi" is directed by a veteran, Joel Lamangan.

Mother Lily says they deliver quality but 'don't go overboard'

Monteverde clarifies that Regal is not shutting out senior directors. "Whether veteran or new, they're all good. It's just that they have different approaches."

Monteverde says the edge of young directors is that they're "adept in using digital technology and they really go for the box-office bux. They are come up with quality films without going overboard. They're very hands-on."

To explain: "For example, Joel Lamangan, it's

Binibini, P2

INSIDE

- Znapsa: I look like a showgirl /F6
- Lake Wilson, his bro's own 'Dupree'/G4

Jay-R-Borgy tiff: 'A guy thing'

By Nox Vistro

SINGER JAYR AND MAYOR SONNY Borgy Ilustrisimo, who figured in a bar scuffle reported recently, have patched up their differences.

The two hugged and shook hands—during the birthday party of former MTV VJ Nats Meer on Wednesday night at the Baloney Bar at the Fort in Taguig City, scene of the reported fistfight.

"It was nothing like a fight," Jay-R told Inquirer Entertainment on Thursday. "It was more of a misunderstanding—a guy thing."

Jay-R said he was the first to extend his hand to Borgy, who took it graciously. The singer also shook hands with Denise Cabacol, Borgy's girlfriend.

"I've never really gotten into a fight with anybody," said Jay-R. He once reported to have had an altercation with a fireman in another bar. "That never happened," he stressed.

What's happening?

He wondered about negative write-ups about him lately in tabloids. "I'm avoiding most of the time," he said. I don't even have time to hang out. When I'm not busy, I stay home and work in my studio."

A product endorser—for Bench, Colgate, Sun Cellular, Tropicana, and Unilever—Jay-R, 25, said he couldn't afford a bad boy image.

"My parents taught me to never disrespect anyone, to be good all the time. I really don't understand it. I walk down the street and I have comments that I'm misbehaving. And I'm just walking."

His mentor, Ariel Ureta, explained, "Jay-R grew up in the US, so his attitude is very Western. He's also very confident, and people could be misinterpreting his confidence as cockiness."

Why he liked Nats," Jay-R agreed. "But I understand Filipino culture because when in the US with OFWs/Filipinos. We speak in Tagalog. I can have fun-ny and emotional. I don't point to others or blame. I don't know what's happening [between Borgy and Nats]. I don't like it."

Jay-R claimed he didn't even feel his

JAY-R BORGY, F2

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PIRATES OF CANDEMAN
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STORMBREAKER
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
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Regal woos young . . .

ROSELLE: Passion for filmmaking

MOTHER LILY: Backer-boss

gen and Mark Reyes are co-executive-owned, they don't go beyond their allocation of film stock. Other directors, however, cannot control their use of film stock. That's why we encourage them to use high-definition (HD) digital camera instead, so that they will not be limited to such short."

"Penshoppe" and "White Lady" were shot on HD. Tan says: "These digital movies were blown up to film. There was a lot of color-grading and special effects involved, so it's not necessarily inexpensive. Most of the HD runners is P50,000 to P80,000 a day. Blowing it up customizes it into a full-on."

Jay-R-Borgy . . .

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PG-13

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MALL 5

1 PHANTOM OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 SUNKOR
5 OH MY GHOST

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KUBRADOR	SUNKOR	MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL 2006	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

MALL 5

1 PHANTOM OF THE CARIBBEAN 2	2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	
4 SUNKOR	5 OH MY GHOST		

Jay-R-Borgy . . .

By Rosalinda Orosa

ramos. "Iconoclasts, daring shows, I feel I'm famous. "But in daily life, I don't feel all that popular."

It was of selecting young girls are an indication of fame. Then the dude is irredeemable.

High goals

In any case, he said he never let that go to his head.

"I talk to everybody, not just the girls. I talk to newspaper vendors. The newspaper vendors tell Gerardville all know me, "the singer said.

"I've always avoided the popularity" he admitted, "but I never dreamed it would happen this way [...] recently, dinner. When I came here, my goal was high—I wanted to have a platinum album."

His first album, "Comeback," released by Universal Records in 2004, has earned double platinum; his second, "Jay-R," has gone platinum.

Best friend

Last year, Jay-R encouraged his friend Dolly Lauzon to give a fill-in, to try his luck here as well. Both were students at the St. Genevieve Right School in Pasonas City, California.

When Rio won the "Search for Star in a Million," Jay-R was one of the happiest persons in the audience.

The two currently share a flat with yet another Filipino musician, Ramil Mann.

"After Rio won, I told him to start saving for your own," Jay-R said, laughing. "It's funny, we compete in our music, in the sense that we sing ... but we do business well, when it comes to it."

Their competition is in front a studio.

"We're the best of friends," said Jay-R. "The only time I get jealous [unreadable] is when he doesn't thank me when."

No hard feelings

Nyoy plans to visit his ex-manager 'soon'

By Marinel R. Cruz

NOYVOLANTE SAYS THERE ARE NO hard feelings between him and Manuel Villafuerte, even after he chose not to renew his contract with the 14-year manager's 7163 Dynamite Production.

But the singer admits he has not spoken to Villafuerte since his release broke headlines here.

"We're fine," Nyoy told Inquirer Entertainment on Thursday. "Both of us are just different right now. I plan to go to his office soon and invite him to lunch."

In an earlier interview, Villafuerte told Inquirer that Nyoy had asked to be released from his contract so he could pursue a solo career working with Skycd Records. Villafuerte is reportedly at odds with Nyoy's posse from Forever Yan.

Nyoy's reasons that he simply chose not to renew the contract, which expired on March 31. He is now under Papa Production, his parents' talent management group, said to not yet release his fourth album under Viva in September.

"This new setup is very convenient for me. I grew closer to my parents. They [are] involved in my career before. Dun, they know where I am, they go with me wherever they're needed. They didn't even have to ask! Their daily role, their work shift is 'I'm supporting Nyoy [in his schedules]."

On Aug. 28, Nyoy will perform at the Rock Café in Makati for the first time in two years. A source close to Nyoy said the Makati gig featured Jean and becoming a Hard Rock two years ago due to a misunderstanding between its management and Villafuerte.

In a recent press conference, Nyoy denied this: "I couldn't make the sounds of how his career my group focused on pop/adult shows. I was never banned in Hard Rock. In fact, whenever Wino [his guitarist] has shows here, I come and jam with her."

What lessons did you learn about relationships with talent managers?

I learned to just always give my best. When I was with Manuel, I gave it 100 percent. I guess I did something right because despite I'm still around.

Any backlash? Your former manager engineered event thing for you.

Every chance we get, we inform everyone that I'm now with Papa Production [now]. The bar must [have been very generous. Abah [my manager] empowered].

Even the members of my band members [Nyoy Volante MMB] are with Papa. They have no problem. We're pretty tight. We've come like a family. They helped me when I left Dynamite, except for saxophonist Jules Ray, who is still with Manuel. He's going solo now. We're happy for him.

Which crowd do you expect to come for the first homecoming show?

Hard-rock regulars are all welcome indeed. You have to really know what you're doing.

And what can they expect?

We have a new member to place of John Fox—Juliet Stott, our violinist. She's very good. The group is very stacked. We have new arrangements. When Juliet joined us, we found because audiences [like it. I think, finally, this is the sound we've been looking for.

TAKE FIVE

'Desperate' interview cited online

FEEDBACK

From Peg Garay (mmary@sunsentinel.com), Florida, USA:
Dear Ms. Rubies Republic,

I regularly read you column. I just want to say that your interview with Marie Clarey and Mar ried, you was cited to an MTA link on our news.

Keep up the good work.

From Marie Cristina Javier (mcjavier@mlrd.com), San Francisco, California:

Hi Rubies,

Just want to let you know how much I enjoyed your article about Maria Evora and your description of her smile as "conspiratorial" sure, I thought, cloud on. I'm not sure if you are aware that your question regarding Barbara Walters asking about her sexuality is creating quite a buzz on the Internet.

I am a huge fan of Maria Cozet's and Eva Longoria's. I know that this is your second time to interview them and I am very jealous you've met them in person. I live in San Francisco but always go to La, when I need to live, to visit friends.

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GALLERIA

1 CLICK + THX
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 3
4 KUBRADOR
5 OH MY GHOST!
6 VICTORY
7 MORTUARY
8 AMERICAN DREAMZ
9 MIAMI VICE
10 SUKOB

ERMITA

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
KUBRADOR
3 MORTUARY
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 3
7 OH MY GHOST!

METRO EAST

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB
5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 3
6 MORTUARY
7 CLICK
8 OH MY GHOST!

NOVALICHES

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MORTUARY
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

CITYSQUARE MALABON | PIONEER

1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 3

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STA. ROSA | LIPA

1 OH MY GHOST!
2 CLICK
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 SUKOB
1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!

DASMARINAS | ANGELES

1 WOLF CREEK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

IMUS | STARMILLS

1 OH MY GHOST!
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 STORMBREAKER

BACOLOD | ILOILO

1 THE BREAK-UP
2 CLICK
3 OH MY GHOST
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 SUKOB
6 TAMBARA
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST!
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK

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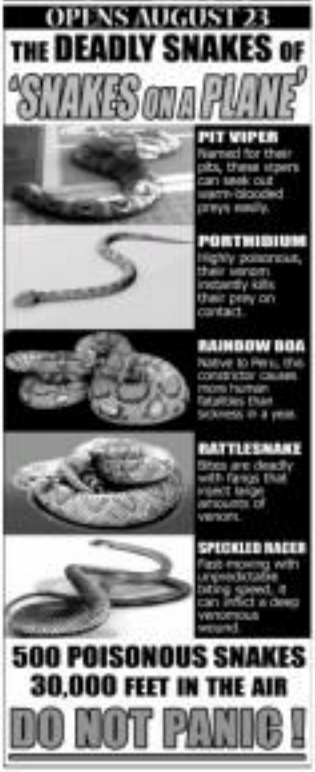


'Live to Play, Play to Live'

ON SEPT. 9, 6:30 PM., AT THE ROCKWELL Tent, Katy P will perform in "Live to Play, Play to Live," with the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band for the graduating batch 2006 Philippine School of Interior Design and the PYSBA scholarship endowment fund.

PYSB is a non-profit organization established in 1979 to educate and mentor young musicians. The band is a wind and brass ensemble made up of dedicated and disciplined talents ranging from 7 to 22 years of age.

Visit www.pysbmusicfoundation.org.ph, or call 895-9999. Tickets are also available at National Bookstore and Starbucks Rosario Ortigas.

Indie dance fest

The first-ever "MUSt Body Independent Contemporary Dance Festival" of the World Dance Alliance-Philippines Chorea/quickies! concludes today at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The festival showcases landmark pieces of independent dance companies and choreographers who have been producing and creating exciting, innovative work in contemporary dance.

It is presented by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and supported by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Today's shows are "Crossing Borders" by the Chinkaloon Dance Theatre; "Grow 55 and Dancing" and "Under the Manila" by Steve Bolton's Junior Women, "Wildbody Gala" with guests Douglas Stewart Swordsmen; moves in Kinesis with Steps Dance Studio, Kaloyang Dance and Theatre Co. Joni Mendoza, and other guests.

Call 0229311125, 8329681 or 832 3704.

Star City-going

Loyal followers of Star City opens an extension stargazing recently as Starstruck veterans Mike Tan, LJ Reyes, Basil Dacia and Jessy Jimeno get together for meet-and-greet sessions, autograph-signing and a mini concert.

Star City's "Ride with the Stars" promo continues today with Ramon Castillo and Secretary Ezeiel, and on Aug. 27 with Mark Sierra and Jessa Jayo Silverado.

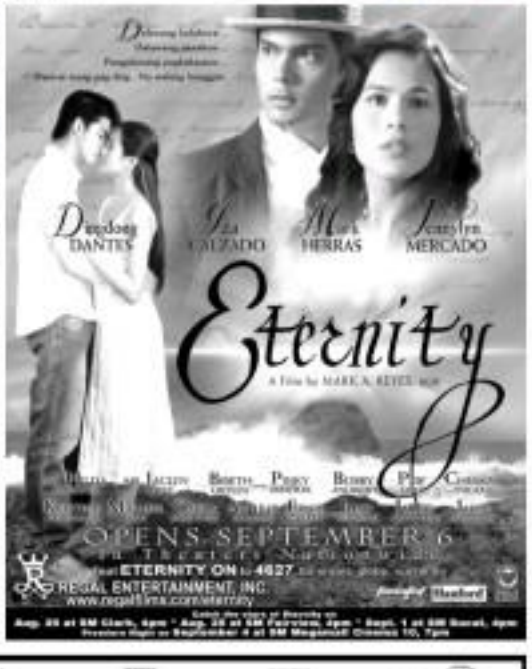
STAR CITY is open from 4 p.m. onwards on Fridays and 1 p.m. onwards on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are P40 for students and P100 for Ride-All'Day Can opp.

SHOW TIME

Sponge Cola nationwide

Sponge Cola's new single will be simultaneously played by radio stations nationwide on Aug. 25, 7 a.m.

"Bitter," centre single from the band's breakaway album, "Pirate," from Universal Records, will be heard on Jam 88.3, Magic 89.9, RX 93.1, Q 97.1, 99.5 RT and Kiss 105.5 in Metro Manila. Effective, from 99 and WRR 101 in Cebu, 96 Fid Radio, UB 97, Monster Radio and Effective in Davao, WRR 101 and Effective in Cagayan de Oro, Effective in Bacolod, 2-100 and Radio One in Iloilo. Sponge Cola is Yael Yuzon (lead vocals and guitar), Gosh Dilay Bunol, Vyncie Nuno" Aunario (lead guitar) and Chris Gaviola (vocals and drums).



Zsazsa on being Zaturnnah: I look like a showgirl

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8 reasons why this is the must-see movie of the year!

1. Knows the truth about jueteng, the illegal numbers game.
2. GINA PARENO gives the best performance of her career.
3. JEFFREY JETURIAN directs the best movie of his career.
4. It has the unanimous choice of the PAFMEDCT, the international film critics body, as Best Film in Competition at the 39th Moscow International Film Festival and the 6th CINEMA One Film Festival of Asian Cinema in New Delhi, India.
5. It won Best Picture and Best Actress at the 6th CINEMA One Film Festival of Asian Cinema.
6. The Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) graded it A, the 1st for 2006.
7. It's officially selected to screen in the 50th London Film Festival, 31st Gothenburg International Film Festival, 31st Toronto International Film Festival, 10th Pusan International Film Festival, 30th Hawaii International Film Festival, 30th Sao Paulo International Film Festival, 29th Vancouver International Film Festival, 22nd Brussels Independent Film Festival, 27th Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 9th Mumbai Asian Film Festival, 7th Rome Independent Film Festival and then 3rd Ankara European Film Festival.
8. It's YOUR story.

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KUBRADOR

a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN

OPENS AUGUST 23

THE DEADLY SNAKES OF "SNAKES on a PLANE"

CORAL SNAKE
Secretes venom that paralyzes the nerves of its victims.

HONDURAN GREEN EYELASH VIPER
Has large hypodermic needle-like fangs that poisons its prey.

GREEN MAMBA
The most dreaded snake species in Africa.

GREEN TREE PYTHON
A venomous snake with fangs and a bad attitude.

PINK MAMBA
A close relative to the black and green mamba with the same venomous attributes.

500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC!

ZSAZSA PADILLA ON HER ARE two co-stars' "after-sex" "Zsazsa Zaturnnah" costumes: "Mahirap i-describe salaysay, ang look like this (showgirl) kasi Mardi Gras!"

Which one? See pictures.

Again on Zsazsa: Stay open to that showbusiness! Next: Hotel Room Sex! The actress' answer on this—and three sex capers as crazy as the Mardi Gras Film Festival this December.

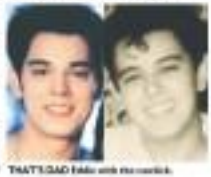
Still on Doctor: She's not fed the Blood Eyed Peas of the Big Drama, daughters and son. She has come the group performs in Las Vegas. Daddy is fine.

Neo-cooperative

ABS-CBN'S MAY out by way back and door to neo-cooperative story.

Another Jamby series

ABS-CBN is eyeing a major new film for the end of another showbiz classic. Details of the decision being kept under cost. Even the star board.



THAT'S DAD Eddie with his cuddly.

Gasgas ho!

Status echo Eddie Bal Richard Gutierrez, remember Raymond? Sexy times.

Idol vs. Academy

ABS-CBN has "informed" ABS-CBN that two of the contestants in the latter's "Pinoy Dream Academy," Cassie Brooks and Mikoy Morales, signed exclusive contracts, thanks to the former's "Philippine

RUSHES

Headmaster Ape

"SPEAKING of "PDA," Dyogi who informed Boots at that former hips Jay Penneke would be hard "modern" on the show.

From the pro

JEJE'S Father Sonnie, just remains true to yourself.

This was the advice of Showtime host Vice Ganda to contestants of Eddie Bartolome's dance competition (can you bet it will all hands).

"You're on your mettle instead of second-guessing the audience," he said.

Rosemary said with the magazine the night the competition's cast and talent before their grand showcase outings on Aug. 27.

The contending groups are Mr. Chord, Freebird, Alfa ORCH and Lutheran.

As for performing on stage, Vice told them, "Nothing like sweating on stage. If you are confident, people will feel it and will have fun with you."

Cycle 5

THE 10th season of "American Idol" hop Micah Cheek Schlueter on Channel 23 p.m. starts Aug. 29).

Tara Banks, who participated and developed the show, describes this round as the "filing" season from other members of this panel of experts is ... Paisley, Randy Jackson is back, while replaces Jamie Bolderson.

He sees grass

LOS ANGELES—Pyromaniac and serial arsonist Jesse Capra pleaded to five counts of arson, including one count of burning property owned by actor Keifer Sutherland, who famously sets dead people in 1988's movie "Two Deuces Eastside," with smoke detectors and investigators yesterday.

Sentenced, 14 years up to six months to jail if convicted. Reuters

"Just being"

NEW YORK — Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn engaged? Don't be ridiculous, Aniston says.

The "Friends" actress told People magazine that reports of her engagement to the "Wedding" actor, including an article in Weekly, are

Headmaster Ape

"SPEAKING of "PDA," Dyogi who informed Boots at that former hips Jay Penneke would be hard "modern" on the show.

DIES Zsazsa must Club Meraki's Bubu, Bobina'd

Wow, calling this the hot "Bobina"

"I'm not impaired, and I don't have a limp, and I haven't been pre-paired to," Antonio, 53, told Peralta. "He is not being."

AP

"Sexcavacy" Depp

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Depp is getting more creepy fascinating to that director Tim Burton's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," saying the film role in a film adaptation of Stephen King's "Pet Sematary" "Extremely Cold." AP

THE RAPPARTS on "America's Next Top Model, Cycle 5" (Channel V)

ROUNDUP

Values education

LALAOM recently launched its values-education campaign with a concert—modeled on earlier ones like. It started in Pagsanjan, the scenery, on set of a set of DVDs featuring the complete anime series penned by Sarah TV for GMA 7.

Several schools in Manila and Cagayan de Oro have likewise received their sets of years from. Next in line are schools in Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao and Quezon City.

Interested schools may contact the secretary general of the Southeast Asia Foundation for Children and Television at sea@swissbaker.net.

Wega launch

SHARON Cuneta was the main attraction in the Sony Spanking Mega consumer launch in Old Megamall. She sang "It's Love Again" and the title track of her album "Set Us Romantic?"

Megaworld rewarded a special edition CD and DVD of "Isn't It Romantic?" It is expected given away with every purchase of Spanking Mega.

'Roman Technology'

NATIONAL Geographic Channel presents a story of the subjects of the Roman Empire 1,500 years ago, but their roads of its technology remains the blueprint for modern living.

"Roman Technology" airs tomorrow at 10 p.m. and on Aug. 24 at 11 p.m.

Korean series

SBS/ABS brings Korea to the Philippines via the SkyCable Premium MBC Hub, which offers a raft of popular Korean programs from the Munhwa Broadcasting Corp.

The pack includes popular soap operas, news/breakfast, dramas, variety shows, current affairs and children's programs. These include "Prince of Legend," a soap opera based on a folk hero; "My Lovely Sam," a romance; and "Jewel in the Palace," an ancient period telenovela.

CHERYL Burke and partner Drew Lachey last season

Will Fil-Am Cheryl Burke win at the Emmys?

LOS ANGELES—Fil-Am Cheryl Burke will be back for the new season of ABC's surprise hit show, "Dancing with the Stars," which begins on Sept. 12.

Drew Lachey and Cheryl were last season's champions. Cheryl's choreographs of her compromise numbers with the former 98 Degrees performer and younger brother of Nick Lachey won sting factor in the duo's triumph. In fact, the Fil-Am professional dancer is attending this Sunday's Emmy Awards because she was nominated twice in the choreography category for the numbers she created and danced with Drew, "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy" and "Fiddler."

Cheryl told me that she was excited about attending the Emmy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium. She will wear a gown designed by Kreyes Roll. Cheryl's guest is her 50-something mom, Sharri Burke, who is probably more thrilled than her daughter.

In Dream Team of "Dancing with the Stars," Cheryl will be paired with football doll of heiress Jasmin Sanik. The two are already hard at work practicing several hours a day.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Other competing dancing "stars" are actor Harry Hamlin, husband of last season's contestant Lisa Rinna; TV talk show host Jerry Springer and fashion tailbiter, actress Vivica A. Fox (VAH FAH); boxer now idol Joey Lawrence; actress and beauty queen Shanna Moakler; actor and TV host Mario Lopez; singer Willa Ford; Disney Channel's "High School Musical" star Monique Coleman; and country music star Sara Evans.

Backside rentals

For years of a few weeks, movie goers saw the behind of Luke and Owen Wilson in their movies, "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" and "You, Me

NELA FILAPELAS

Having It All

Some people want to live life on their own terms, get what they want, without any hassle. And who wouldn't? Imagine a buff body without having to work out. Or wearing those sexy four-inch stilettos without pinched toes and painful feet! Life would be so much better! In fact, it would be just like Coke Light— all the great taste you love, and none of the calories you don't. You can have as much as you want without any worries!

In an alternate world where you could really have it all: there would be stolen kisses without getting slapped. You could shoot from the half-court line and not miss. Enjoy romantic movie without cheesy lines, and eat cheese popcorn without getting yellow fingers. You could enjoy the best of everything without any consequences.

Well perhaps you can't always get what you want. But you can definitely have it all with Coke Light. All pleasure, no guilt. This you can be sure of.

So grab a Coke Light now. It's the first step to having it all.

sheer pleasure.
no guilt.

great taste. no calories.
Have it ALL

Relevant, lurid and forgotten 'Dreamz'

A timely commentary on entertainment and politics

PARTY Phoenix, vocalistic pop star, dolls up to be the star of an unruly ambitions salon show contestant.

By Oliver M. Pokrahatch
Contributor

"AMERICAN DREAMZ" WHIZZ, and simultaneously, satirizes hit TV shows "American Idol" and the American president—a timely commentary on the current state of interactive entertainment and political spins.

It submits that the two subjects have this kind of tongue in cheek. (I commented from an elevated and multi more dimensional manner, I would describe it as "good TV"). If US President Bush's Dreamz Quadrilateral administration and loss of confidence are realistically conveyed up by his advisers and secretaries. In it's initially strong, after the second week by weeks, after his second reelection, Bush he attempts to sustain his rekindled image by appointing a good judge on the "American Idol" star search.

As with "American Idol," the exciting process of contestants in the first and show to audience, lose it down out all kinds of screamers. (In here, producers, and Simon Cowell-like judge Maria Tarmel (Hugh Dancy) wants the "Real" in show by Sachiwo Bay'll make another body save action.

Taken services

One such contestant is talented but overly ambitious—Sally Rose (Mandy Moore) and pop singer Handy Moore), who wants to be a star and not just "any idol" who appears on TV. Another contestant, Omer (Sam Golzari)—an immigrant and security a budding terrorist recruit who leaves dirty tunnels—becomes the season's most curious of any screams.

Meantime, "American Dreamz," despite lapping many characters from two different worlds, doesn't lose focus on its mix of time-wasters, rivals, and opportunists.

To resemble out close resemblers. Aside from praiseworthy turns by Quaid, Hand, Moore and Golzari, characters are given depth and recognition by Dennis Dobie (the stressed-out chief of staff), Marcia Gay Harden (the kindly First Lady), Chris Klein (Sally's devoted ex), Jennifer Coolidge (Hale's mom), Seth Myers (Sally's devious agent), and Chadwick Aghebolan (Omer's rich uncle).

REVIEW

Written, produced and directed by Paul Weitz ("About a Boy," "American Pie"), "American Dreamz" plods on "Americana," and never more with the world's fascination and obsession with helping make or break new celebrities. The process of selecting the more appealing, not necessarily the most talented, is underscored.

Escapist drag

The televised selection process and voting countdown are faster compared to the hold behind-the-scenes jockeying, personality quirks, over-dollar and theories and more selfish agendas proceed with abandon. The parts focusing on the president's incompetence are among the duller and distracting components, too. Still, the film's legion of characters offer a fine cross-section of the world's population that gladly takes the guise down this screwball drag, unified by school fans in rehearsing theater or young hopefuls predicted or realized. "American Dreamz" does, quite accurately, reflect the tendency of many politicians to ride the controls of the hip and happening, to stay relevant. Truth is way stranger than fiction, that's for sure.

OPENS AUGUST 23

THE DEADLY SNAKES OF 'SNAKES ON A PLANE'

ASIAN MOCCASIN
Has a heat-sensitive organ for detecting warm-blooded preys.

BLACK MAMBA
Fastest snake on the planet, highly aggressive and bites for the kill.

BOILING PYTHON
Armed with venomous fangs, these species squeezes their prey to kill it.

BURMESE PYTHON
Has lots of big teeth, weighs 200 lbs., and is 20-feet long.

COPPERHEAD
The most venomous snake in Eastern U.S. Fatalities are sure with this nasty bugger.

500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC !

DID YOU KNOW...

Swag drag

LOS ANGELES—The US government considers celebrities that gift to carry their faves swanky tasteful items, but the treasure of free luxury goods that rains upon the already rich and famous is unlikely to dry up soon.

Celebrity tradition towards stars for personal appearances with goodie bags—a.k.a. "swag"—worth close to $1 million.

"This is a big perk that celebrities have become very accustomed to," said Linda Perry of Beverly Hills, a company that provides lavish gift bags for celebrity events.

However, on Thursday, the Internal Revenue Service of Modern Dictators and Interests announced it had reached an agreement with the IRS to treat Beverly Hills swag bags as gift bags for those presenters. Recipients of the 2006 Oscar booty basket will be taxed based on the estimated fair market value of their obligations. AP

OPENS AUGUST 23

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!

Oil Crisis?

Why worry when the Philippines abounds with the world's healthiest oil

In this time of rising oil prices, most Filipinos would perhaps look at the Middle East with envy. And why not? The region produces a large part of the world's oil supply. When the price of oil shoots up, the Middle East enjoys the bonanza while non-oil producing countries like the Philippines could only pray and hope for quick end to the price hikes.

Unfair, many would think. Not quite. Don't you know that the Philippines is a leading oil exporter too? The difference is while the Middle East exports the kind of oil that runs cars and machines, the Philippines' gift to the world is an oil from a renewable source, does not pollute the environment and, more importantly, helps in enhancing health and wellness.

Called the "tree of life," coconut trees are found mostly near the equator, or the exact area where the Philippine archipelago lies. Yes, while the Middle East holds the world's biggest deposits of petroleum, the Philippines and nearby countries abound with coconut trees that have been a part of the people's everyday life.

Looking at the many uses of the coconut tree would sustain the belief that it is indeed the tree of life. There is no part of it that goes to waste. The coconut meat, a very good source of nutrients with its rich protein and medium chain fatty acids primarily lauric acid. The shell is good material for charcoal. The leaves are used as traditional roofing materials. The tree itself is a source of low-cost wood. For many decades, the coconut's leading use has been as copra which is processed into cooking oil. But just a few years back, Filipinos introduced Virgin Coconut Oil or VCO to the world.

The health benefits of VCO have gained many believers in no short a time. It is fittingly called the healthiest oil for it is good for the heart, provides a quick source of energy and is not deposited as fats in our body.

Most importantly, VCO is rich in lauric acid which is similar to the lactic acid present in the colostrum of mother's milk. As supplement to milk, VCO provides additional power to the immune system of children by improving their body's resistance against various infections and ailments.

Yes, VCO has been proven good for adults but is it also good for children? The good news is that studies have shown that VCO is safe even for children. And just like what it did with the Therabreity VCO for adults, Splash Corporation has once again come up with an innovation that will make VCO enticing to kids. Therabreity VCO for Children now comes in mouth-watering potions that kids will surely love - chocolate, strawberry, and orange.

Adding flavors will not affect or reduce the health benefits that VCO offers. On the contrary, adding flavor to VCO will make it more appealing. Just imagine the benefits it will give to the country's overall health and wellness when more and more of its people enjoy their daily VCO.

Splash Corporation is aggressively working on developing the markets for VCO here and abroad. Splash believes that VCO is one product where the Philippines have an advantage. Aside from this, a global market for VCO would mean additional income for the Filipino coconut farmers.

Splash's support for the VCO is also very much aligned to its advocacy of "Galing ng Pinoy, Ipagmalaki" which aims to create appreciation and support for Filipino achievers as well as in promoting patronage of products and services provided by Filipino companies. As the company's corporate battle cry goes: "Ang bagong Pilipino, kayang tumapat sa buong mundo."

For more information on VCO and the Galing ng Pinoy advocacy : type GALINGPINOY with your name, address, your message or inquiry to Splash's text hotline at 0918-906-1459.

The Philippines: an oil-rich country.

Forget the Middle East. Our country is abundant in oil. Virgin Coconut Oil. Thanks to Filipino ingenuity, VCO is now in demand worldwide. Because it is immensely rich in lauric acid. One of the building blocks of the immune system. (Also found in mother's milk.) Splash proudly salutes and supports this home-grown success story. By continually innovating new products for adults and new children. It goes to show good things happen when we use our coconuts.

Lakas mula sa lauric acid.

SPLASH CORPORATION

There's only one God & His name's not Technology

ADAM SANDLER'S LATEST STARRER, "Click," is the old cautionary "rich bitch" tale given a contemporary, high-tech twist, with Sandler's character achieving his dream of totally control over his universe through the use of a magical universal remote control.

At first, as the story unfolds, it feels too smugly heartfelt for even its hip-cynic premise.

How guilty pretext for Sandler's smugly glib architect character to finally get everything he wants in both his career and family life through the simplistic expedient of being able to freeze, rewind or fast-forward all aspects of his life?

He does this with the special remote control given to him by a weird, all-knowing geek played by Christopher Walken.

For much too much of a movie, the plot devolves almost comedy's usually of Sandler getting back at the people who make life difficult for him and his loved ones. Some of these end up strangely cloyed by sympathy as they, but these simply are too many of them, and they seem become a surfeit.

But, just as we're about to give up on the movie, it finally changes focus, and shows how Sandler's prefect sweet synapse for success and total one-upmanship can end up making life miserable and even tragic for him.

Yes, he becomes immensely rich and powerful, but he also comes out on real involvement in his family life. Since his remote control augments but to fast-forward his personal life in front of his more agreeable mobile current he doesn't really see his children growing up, and his wife feels neglected and unhappy.

It's no wonder, therefore, that when these dire family issues to his senses, he discovers that his wife has left him, and will in fact never speak to another man, leaving him to die royal hands.

His kids are now all grown up, but to good him as a stranger—which is really what he has become, no thanks to the all-powerful remote control that has made him as lost in his fantasied empire. Def. to explain to his loved ones. Time and Seasons.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

This is a high-tech exploration of that ageless opportunity, "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his soul?"

Sandler's character has, in fact, lost his soul to endless technology, and that should be his true success journey.

The best bit of irony that the film shows is the fact that Sandler uses his magical control to manipulate everyone and everything—but friends are controlling him!

We don't have an all-powerful remote in our own hands, but we can take the initiative—however tentative and—apply it to our own lives by substituting the other control factors that hold sway in our existences...worship, prayer, popularity, bonds, fun—take your pick. (Tor)

Unfortunately, the film doesn't have achieve enough is enough, and develops its story's epilogue to excessive lengths. (If the star is Sandler's spectacularly grandiose death scenes!)

Despite this caveat, however, "Click" remains a tolerable film for its lulling to sight (not even when anger to be efficient what gods who are able to control their universes...only to reap the wholehearted for being so grandly, pathetically pressing lives).

There is only one God, and His name is not Technology.

'Prada' sneak previews

The fashion comedy, "The Devil Wears Prada," will have sneak previews tomorrow and on Tuesday. The Film stars Meryl Streep as a cold-shouldered and vicious fashion magazine editor who makes life miserable for her assistants, including a new intern portrayed by Anne Hathaway.

"The Devil Wears Prada" starts its regular run on Aug. 30.

What are 'butt doubles'?

LUKE Wilson

Luke Wilson sounds convincing when he says there's no rivalry between him and older brod Owen

and Dupree," respectively. "That's a little too much! Wilson for anybody," quipped Luke in our recent press run-with him.

Well, it turned out later that it was a case of too much "butt doubles." It seems the brothers are not very confident about their bodies. Scoop Wilson opted for the services of "butt doubles"—people who wear cushioned backsides. Only in Hollywood, folks. An actress or her director's pockets seamlessly don't breasts to stand in for her own? No problem. There are individuals who sell their behinds, breasts or entire bodies for jobs.

Luke was spotted at seeing in a different interview. "I had a great year emotionally, but physically it was kind of a rough year. I thought it might be a good time to sit on the bench for [but] some reason I got a muscle strain right over there. What they do, and I know this sounds strange, is they give you Polaroids of guys's backsides. They have guys come in and then they give you the Polaroids and have you pick one out."

He continued: "I found myself getting over the Polaroids and saying, 'I like that one but it doesn't have quite the pizazz I want for this scene.' Or, 'This one's good, but it's too much in it. I've got a little bit of drainage back there. As you get a little older you get little dents and indentations. You want to see cool about it when you eventually see, I like this guy's ass."

Never been hurt

In "My Super Ex-Girlfriend," Luke's character, Matt, leaves (but his girlfriend, Uma Thurman) is a superhero. When Thurman ends up only her because she gets too controlling and uncaring...she reacts revenge by transforming—and embarrassing him.

But the film shows that there are advantages to having a super girlfriend, like turtle-dashing any threat your own, when Luke was still a kid experienced rash bed-wetting wit. He youngest of Hollywood's Wilson actor-brothers (at 34) said, "Mom I ever endured something like that [laughter]? No, I've never been hurt. I've pulled a couple of hamstrings but I have never experienced anything like that. I've definitely never looked down on the bed and seen two butts come upon shaking it like the elements were something right. I like somebody with an opinion, not somebody who's just meek and not saying what's on his mind."

Of late, the guy who listed such actresses as Renee Zellweger and Gwyneth Paltrow, he said, "Hasn't met Uma before. I was nervous. I remember being in high school and watching her in Tarantino Limited, "Pulp Fiction' come out right around the time I was making my first movie. I have always been a fan of hers. She is elegant, intelligent but she also has a lovely sense of humor."

He claimed that as for his many of his ex-girlfriends have remarried him. "I've been pretty lucky that I haven't had any of it," he declared. "I've certainly had those fears, me but I haven't had them materialized yet."

When our colleague commented on his Texas drawl, the Dallas-born actor laughed and explained, "I have been making an effort to speak [more slowly] and I still don't do a good job. Here inside to slow down my speech [laughter] so I don't drink it sometimes. You should hang around with us in Texas. After a week-or-so, it all goes back to slowness. (He speaks in true slow Texas drawl.) How y'all doing? It's just sort of there canal. Bingo—that's how people talk and that's how they move. Maybe it's the heat. Maybe we all have [extensive] laughter."

Overstaying guest

In "Fay, Me and Dupree," Owen plays the Dupree character, an overstaying guest in the home of Jean Gilbert and Kate Hudson. In our previous chit with Owen, he mentioned Luke as the Dupree in his life whenever ego. When interviewed about being tagged Dupree by his brother, Luke was not at all surprised.

"Can I tell you what Owen said to me?" he asked. "He said, I've been doing a lot of press and you're getting pegged as the Dupree in my life. I'm like, really...wow! It is true that I lived with him for 12 years and sometimes my welcome. I'd just say that I only overstayed my welcome probably the last five...six years of living at Owen's house [laughter]."

Luke continued, "I don't know why I didn't want to move away. Maybe I should see a psychiatrist. Maybe it's because I'm the youngest. But I stayed as long, that Owen said, 'Luke, I know you love money. Get an apartment [laughter].' I saved a ton of it here. I was really like a Dupree. I mean, would come home with somebody and I'd be like, 'how are you doing? What time you guys been up to?' Owen would just come in be alone in his own house. So I purchased a place which I didn't move into until after two years [laughter]. I was saying, here am I supposed to move into my house? I've got friends staying here. What do I do? I supposed to do. Kirk them out? He was like, yes, Luke, I'm kicking you out. Maybe you'll kick them out [laughter]."

He owes Owen

Luke sounded convincing when he insisted that there was no professional rivalry between him and Owen. He shared, "I'm sure it has happened where both of our careers have come up where people are casting movies. Surprisingly enough, it has never come down to both of us vying for the same role. I never know how to answer this question because people think you want to hear the answer that we're not competitive. We aren't. He is the funniest human of him. I really look up to him. You just want the other person to do well. I always want my brother to do well. I always want my friends to do well. I want people to like shows and for them to be well received. I hope that wasn't one thing for Owen's films."

Luke described how the brothers, including the eldest, actor-director Andrew, spend as often as when they manage to get together. "We have kind of gotten caught up in the acting circle. Owen's got a role so he's not always playing movie games lately. He also play a lot of tennis, that old fashion game. Or we just go to the tennis, now that it's summertime. The three of us get along very well which at the same time, we really bring each other daughter's but what are you supposed to do at this point?"

Then he waxed, "I want to make a film about Owen." What would he do title? "The Godfather."

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